

QFMC 5 Day Devotional

Week of January 4, 2026 by Andrew Royer

Day 1: The Nearness of the Kingdom

Reading: Matthew 4:12-17

Devotional: When Jesus begins His ministry, His first words are an invitation: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This isn't a threat—it's a doorway. Repentance means to turn, to reorient your life toward something better. Jesus brings the kingdom near to you today, not as something distant you must climb toward, but as a present reality. What in your life is exhausting you, shrinking you, leaving you unfulfilled? Jesus invites you to turn from that and toward the life He offers. The kingdom isn't about religious performance; it's about coming home. Today, consider what you need to turn from and what Jesus is inviting you toward.

Day 2: Leave Your Nets Behind

Reading: Matthew 4:18-22

Devotional: "Come, follow me," Jesus says to fishermen with nets in their hands and routines that made sense. He didn't ask them to add Him to their schedules or fit Him into the margins. He asked them to leave everything and reorder their entire lives around Him. This is the hard truth of discipleship: Jesus doesn't fit into an already-full life. He calls us to a completely different kind of life with Him at the center. What are you clinging to that prevents you from fully following? What "nets" do you need to lay down? Following doesn't begin with certainty—it begins with willingness. Today, ask Jesus what He's inviting you to leave behind.

Day 3: The Humble King

Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Devotional: Before Jesus ever asked us to surrender, He surrendered Himself. Though He was God, He gave up His divine privileges, took on human form, and humbled Himself to death on a cross. This matters profoundly: Jesus isn't asking you to go anywhere He hasn't already gone. He isn't calling you to a life He refused to live. When you struggle with surrender, remember that Jesus demonstrated what He's asking of you. He moved toward us, stepped down, loved those who were different, and gave Himself completely. Following Jesus means learning to live with the same humility, surrender, and self-giving love. How is Jesus calling you to humble yourself today?

Day 4: Formation Over Information

Reading: Isaiah 9:1-2; Matthew 4:12-16

Devotional: Matthew shows us that Jesus fulfilled ancient prophecy—bringing light to those in darkness. But notice: discipleship doesn't begin with information; it begins with invitation. The disciples didn't have complete understanding, resolved beliefs, or spiritual maturity when they first followed. They simply followed. Jesus doesn't wait for you to have everything figured out. He walks with you through incomplete understanding, mixed motives, and unresolved questions. Transformation is Christ being formed in you—a long, slow formation, not a moment. This is why we can't rush spiritual growth. Today, give yourself permission to follow Jesus even with your questions, doubts, and uncertainties. He's forming you along the way.

Day 5: Will You Follow?

Reading: Matthew 4:17-22; Luke 9:23-25

Devotional: The question before us is simple but profound: Will you follow? Not "Do you agree with Jesus?" but "Will you actually follow Him?" Following Jesus means surrendering ourselves the same way He did—not clinging to power, status, or rights, but moving toward others with love. It means allowing our perspectives, pace of life, and posture to be challenged and changed. The goal isn't to become more religious but to become more like Jesus. As you reflect today, consider: What would it look like to truly reorder your entire life around Jesus? What would change about your schedule, relationships, spending, or priorities? Don't rush to answer. Simply sit with the question and listen for His voice.

As you continue this journey, remember: we don't come to Jesus because we've followed Him perfectly. We come because He has been faithful to us. His grace meets us exactly where we are.