

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide based on the themes from the sermon:

Day 1: The Cost of Discipleship

Reading: Luke 14:25-33

Devotional: Jesus' words about the cost of discipleship can seem harsh, but they reveal a profound truth: nothing should come before our relationship with God. Reflect on what it means to "hate" family in comparison to loving Christ. This isn't about actual hatred, but about prioritizing God above all else. What in your life competes for first place with God? Consider the "cross" you bear - what challenges or struggles has God allowed in your life that draw you closer to Him? Remember, Jesus bore the ultimate cross for us. His sacrifice enables us to take up our own crosses, not through our own strength, but through His power working in us.

Day 2: Building Your Tower of Faith

Reading: Ephesians 2:8-10, Hebrews 11:1-6

Devotional: Jesus used the analogy of building a tower to illustrate the importance of counting the cost of faith. But unlike earthly endeavors, we can't build our faith through our own resources. It's God who supplies everything we need. Reflect on how your faith has grown over time. What "building materials" has God provided - perhaps His Word, fellowship, or experiences that strengthened your trust in Him? Remember, faith is a gift from God, not something we achieve on our own. How can you open yourself more fully to God's work in building your faith today?

Day 3: Engaging in Spiritual Warfare

Reading: Ephesians 6:10-18

Devotional: The sermon mentioned being at war with sin, Satan, and death. This spiritual battle is real, but we don't fight alone. Like the king in Jesus' parable who considers his army's strength, we must recognize our own inadequacy and rely on God's power. The armor of God described in Ephesians gives us the resources we need. Which piece of spiritual armor do you need to "put on" more consciously today? Remember, our victory is assured not because of our own strength, but because of Christ's triumph on the cross.

Day 4: The Sufficiency of Christ

Reading: Colossians 2:6-15

Devotional: Just as Jesus is our perfect supply of love and life, He is also all-sufficient for every spiritual need. Reflect on the phrase "in Christ you have been brought to fullness." What areas of your life do you struggle to entrust fully to Christ? Perhaps there are places where you're still trying to build your own tower or fight your own battles. Surrender those areas to Him today, recognizing that His grace is sufficient for you. How might your life look different if you truly lived from the fullness you have in Christ?

Day 5: Restoring Our Spiritual Saltiness

Reading: Matthew 5:13-16, Colossians 4:5-6

Devotional: The sermon touched on the idea of faith losing its "saltiness." In a world that can dull our spiritual senses, how do we maintain the vibrant, flavorful faith that impacts those around us? The key lies in staying connected to the source - Christ Himself. Reflect on times when your faith has felt particularly alive and impactful. What contributed to that? Perhaps it was time in God's Word, deep prayer, or serving others. Choose one practical step you can take today to reconnect with Christ and restore the "salt" to your faith. Remember, it's His grace that ultimately preserves and enlivens our faith.