

5-Day Devotional: Looking Among the Nations

Day 1: When You Can't See God's Work

****Reading:**** Habakkuk 1:1-5

****Devotional:****

Habakkuk's cry echoes through the ages: "How long, Lord?" When violence, injustice, and chaos surround us, it's natural to wonder if God is listening. Yet God's response reveals a profound truth—He is always at work, even when we can't perceive it. The prophet looked at his immediate circumstances and saw only darkness, but God invited him to lift his eyes higher and see a broader perspective. Today, you may be facing situations that make no sense. The news may overwhelm you with stories of suffering and injustice. But God whispers the same invitation: "Look beyond what you see. I am doing something remarkable." Faith isn't pretending problems don't exist; it's trusting that God is working through them for purposes greater than we can imagine.

****Reflection Question:**** What situation in your life requires you to trust God's unseen work today?

Day 2: God's Unexpected Methods

****Reading:**** Genesis 50:15-21; Romans 8:28

****Devotional:****

Joseph's story demonstrates a revolutionary truth: God specializes in turning evil into good. Sold into slavery by jealous brothers, falsely accused, imprisoned—Joseph's path seemed like a series of disasters. Yet each "setback" positioned him exactly where God needed him to save nations from starvation. God rarely works the way we expect. He used a cross—an instrument of torture—to bring salvation to the world. He used persecution to spread the

early church. He uses our deepest wounds to create our greatest ministries. When you face unexpected hardships, remember Joseph's words: "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good." Your crisis may be God's catalyst. Your setback may be His setup. Don't despise the uncomfortable seasons—God may be positioning you for something you couldn't imagine.

****Reflection Question:**** How might God be using your current challenges for a greater purpose?

Day 3: From Complaint to Worship

****Reading:**** Habakkuk 3:17-19

****Devotional:****

Habakkuk's transformation is stunning. He begins the book complaining about God's silence and questioning His justice. He ends declaring, "Though the fig tree does not blossom...yet I will rejoice in the Lord." What changed? Not his circumstances—but his perspective. He encountered God's character and chose worship over worry. This is the faith journey missions requires: moving from "Why, God?" to "I trust You, God." Mature faith doesn't demand comfortable circumstances before praising; it praises despite uncomfortable circumstances. Habakkuk discovered that God Himself—not God's blessings—was his true strength and joy. When everything around you crumbles, can you still say, "Yet I will rejoice"? This isn't denial; it's defiance against despair. It's choosing to anchor your hope not in changing situations but in an unchanging God.

****Reflection Question:**** What would change in your life if you chose to rejoice in God Himself rather than in your circumstances?

Day 4: Sent to the Nations

****Reading:**** Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Revelation 7:9-10

****Devotional:****

God's mission has always been global. From Abraham's call to be a blessing to "all families of the earth" to John's vision of every nation worshipping before God's throne, Scripture reveals God's relentless pursuit of all peoples. You are part of this grand story. Jesus didn't say, "Go if it's convenient" or "Go if you're specially qualified." He said simply, "Go." The Great Commission isn't for super-Christians; it's for every believer. Missions isn't just for those who cross oceans—it's for those who cross streets. You're called to be either a sender or a goer, a pray-er or a giver. The question isn't whether you're called to missions; it's how you're called to participate. God is working among the nations right now. Where is He inviting you to join Him?

****Reflection Question:**** What's one practical step you can take this week to participate in God's global mission—whether locally or globally?

Day 5: Lift Your Eyes

****Reading:**** Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 67

****Devotional:****

Habakkuk's transformation began when God said, "Look among the nations." He had to stop staring at his problems and start seeing God's purposes. Isaiah had a similar moment—overwhelmed by God's holiness, he responded, "Here am I. Send me." Both prophets moved from self-focus to God-focus, from despair to deployment. Today, God invites you to lift your eyes. Look beyond your immediate struggles to the harvest fields around you. See the neighbors who don't know Jesus. Consider the unreached people groups still waiting to hear the Gospel. Recognize the global crisis as a divine opportunity. Henry Blackaby said, "Find out where God is at work and join Him there." God is always at work somewhere. The question is: Will you lift your eyes to see it? Will you respond like Isaiah: "Here am I, Lord. Send me"?

****Reflection Question:**** Where do you see God at work around you, and how is He inviting you to join Him there?

****Closing Prayer for the Week:****

Father, thank You for opening our eyes to Your mission among the nations. Forgive us for the times we've been consumed by our own concerns and blind to Your purposes. Give us faith to trust You when Your ways don't make sense. Help us see the people around us—near and far—who need Your love. Make us faithful participants in Your global mission, whether we go, send, pray, or give. Strengthen our faith to worship You even in difficult seasons. Use our lives to bring glory to Your name until every tribe and tongue bows before Your throne. In Jesus' name, Amen.