5-Day Devotional: Winning Our World

Day 1: The Mission Begins With Prayer

Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1–4

Devotional:
Everything that matters begins with God. Pastor Norman reminded us that prayer is not a warm-up act before the real work of reaching people begins. Prayer is the work. Paul urges us to make supplications, intercessions, and thanksgiving for all people because God desires all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.

Think of the people in your life who have not yet said yes to Jesus. They are not accidents on your path. They are assignments on your heart. Before you craft the right words or plan the perfect conversation, go to God first. He who forms the human heart also opens it.

Reflection:
Write down the name of one person far from God. Commit to praying specifically for that person every day this week. Ask God to soften their heart and to show you how to be a bridge in their life.

Day 2: Going Where the People Are

Reading: Matthew 9:10–13

Devotional:
Jesus did not wait for broken people to find their way to a religious building. He reclined at the table with tax collectors and sinners, and people criticized him for it. His response was simple and devastating to self-righteousness: those who are well have no need of a physician.

The church in the West has sometimes retreated into a comfortable bubble, speaking a language no one else understands, surrounding itself only with people who already believe. But Jesus' mission was always outward. Immersion among people who do not yet know God is not a compromise of your faith. It is an expression of it.

Reflection: Identify one environment in your regular life where you are the only believer or one of very few. Make a deliberate effort this week to be present, attentive, and genuinely kind to someone in that space, with no agenda beyond friendship.

Day 3: Starting the Conversation

Reading: Luke 19:1–10

Devotional:
Zacchaeus was not seeking Jesus in any conventional way. He climbed a tree just to catch a glimpse of someone he had heard about. And yet Jesus stopped, looked up, and called him by name. He did not shout a sermon from the road. He asked to come to his house. He initiated a conversation that changed everything.

Pastor Norman reminded us that God may lead us to unexpected people in unexpected places, and the key is not to overthink the nudge. When you sense a prompting to start a conversation, to ask a question, to say the name of someone on your heart, do not talk yourself out of it.

Reflection:
Practice the phrase Pastor Norman used: "Tell me your story." Use it this week with someone you do not know well. Resist the urge to fill the silence. Simply listen, and pay attention to what God reveals through what they share.

Day 4: The Power of Genuine Friendship

Reading: James 1:19; Proverbs 18:24

Devotional: Jesus was called a friend of sinners, and his critics meant it as an insult. He wore it as a mission statement. True friendship requires something that does not come naturally to most of us: the discipline of listening more than we speak. James makes it plain that we are to be quick to hear and slow to speak.

Alakaʻi shared that what drew him toward faith was not a polished presentation but the genuineness of someone who showed up consistently, made him laugh, and refused to give up on him. The world does not need more religious performances. It needs more people who will sit down, lean in, and actually listen.

Reflection:
Reach out to someone you have been meaning to reconnect with. Invite them to coffee or a meal with no agenda other than to hear how they are doing. Ask open questions and resist the urge to redirect the conversation toward spiritual topics. Simply be a friend first.

Day 5: Carrying the Torch Forward

Reading: Matthew 28:18-20

Devotional:
Jesus did not leave his disciples with a suggestion. He left them with a commission backed by all authority in heaven and on earth, and sealed with a promise: I am with you always, to the end of the age. Pastor Norman described the Great Commission not as an impossible mission but as a possible one, carried out one relationship at a time.

Each one reaching one. The torch has been passed to you. Not because you are the most qualified, the most educated, or the most spiritually polished, but because you are here, you are willing, and the Spirit of God lives in you. Do not wait until you feel ready. The season is now.

Reflection:
Write out your own version of the Great Commission as it applies to your specific life. Name the people, group, neighborhood, workplace, or family member God has placed on your heart. Pray over what you wrote, then share it with one trusted person who can hold you accountable.