5-Day Devotional: Roll the Stone Away

Day 1: The Promise That Does Not End There

Reading: John 11:1–4; Jeremiah 1:12

Devotional:
When Jesus received word that Lazarus was sick, he responded with a promise rather than panic. He declared that this sickness would not end in death. Notice he did not say Lazarus would not die. He said the story would not end there. God watches over his word to perform it, which means every promise he has spoken over your life is still active, still moving, still being carried toward fulfillment.

The situation you are looking at may appear finished, but God is not confused. He knew the full picture when he made the promise. What has God spoken over your life that you have quietly assumed is expired? Today, resist that assumption. The promise has not changed simply because the circumstances look dark. God's word does not lose its power while it waits for the right moment to break through.

Reflection:
Write down one promise from Scripture or a word God has placed in your spirit that you have begun to doubt. Sit with it today and ask the Holy Spirit to renew your confidence in it.

Day 2: The Transformation of a Distracted Heart

Reading: Luke 10:38–42; Romans 12:2

Devotional:
Martha was once the woman too busy serving to sit at Jesus' feet. But when her world collapsed and her brother lay dead, something shifted. She ran toward Jesus, not away from him. She declared that even now, she believed God would do whatever Jesus asked. That is a transformed heart. The same woman who was distracted by dinner is now standing in the middle of grief and speaking words of resurrection faith.

This is what the renewing of the mind looks like in real life. It does not always happen in a quiet moment of prayer. Sometimes it happens in the middle of loss, when the Holy Spirit redirects your gaze from the crowd of obligations back to the one thing worth being concerned about. God is not finished shaping you. The very circumstance pressing against you right now may be the moment your own transformation takes root.

Reflection: Where in your life has distraction pulled your focus away from Jesus? Ask God today to redirect your attention back to his presence and his promises, even in the middle of difficulty.

Day 3: When Jesus Moves Toward the Stink

Reading: John 11:32–38; Romans 8:28–29

Devotional:
Jesus did not stay at a comfortable distance from the grief, the doubt, or the smell of death. He moved toward it. He has always moved toward the stinking stories. He washed feet, spoke to the woman at the well, stood between a condemned woman and her accusers, and interrupted a persecutor on the road to Damascus.

He does not wait for your life to be presentable before he draws near. Romans 8:28–29 reminds us that all things work together for good for those called according to his purpose, and that purpose is conformity to the image of Christ. That means even your most broken seasons are not outside his redemptive reach. He is not repelled by your mess. He is moving toward it with intention, because love does not retreat from the stink. It enters it and transforms it.

Reflection:
Think of an area of your life that feels too broken or too far gone for God to address. Invite Jesus into that specific place today, trusting that he moves toward what others would walk away from.

Day 4: Rolling Away the Stone of Unbelief

Reading: John 11:38–44; Matthew 17:–20

Devotional: Jesus could have rolled the stone away himself. He could have walked Lazarus out already unwrapped. But he asked the people to do what they had done in reverse. They had shut the story down in unbelief, so he called them to undo that act in repentance and renewed faith. Rolling the stone away was not about physical strength. It was about choosing to believe again.

Many believers have quietly buried promises. A calling set aside because years passed. A prayer abandoned because the answer seemed too delayed. A dream wrapped in grave clothes and sealed behind a stone of disappointment. God is asking today not for perfect faith, but for a willingness to roll the stone back. To say, Lord, I still believe what you said, even now.

The Kingdom does not need more platforms. It needs more people who say, without condition or negotiation, “Here I am. Send me.” Let your encounter with God be the source of your yes.

Reflection:
Identify a promise, calling, or prayer you have sealed away in unbelief. Take one concrete step today to reopen it, whether through prayer, journaling, or a conversation with a trusted believer who can stand with you in faith.

Day 5: Standing on the Promises That Are Still Alive

Reading: Romans 8:28–29; Deuteronomy 28:1–6; Jeremiah 29:11

Devotional:
The sermon closed with a cascade of promises: blessed in the city and the field, no weapon formed against you will prosper, the head and not the tail, a lender and not a borrower, plans to prosper and not to harm. These are not motivational phrases. They are the declared intentions of a God who watches over his word and makes it happen.

The purpose behind it all, as Romans 8:29 makes clear, is that you would be conformed to the image of his Son. Every promise God has made ultimately serves that goal. He is not simply trying to improve your circumstances. He is shaping you into someone who looks more and more like Jesus. Stand on his promises today not merely because you want a better outcome, but because you trust the character of the one who made them. He has never abandoned a promise. He will not start with yours.

Reflection:
Read each of the promises referenced in today's reading aloud. Speak them as declarations over your life. Then spend a few minutes in quiet, asking the Holy Spirit to renew your mind and deepen your confidence in who God says he is and who he says you are.