

Day 1: Bearing God's Image

Reading: Genesis 1:26-27, Colossians 3:9-10

We are created in God's image, a truth that carries profound implications for how we live. Just as coins bear Caesar's image, we bear God's image—but in a far more significant way. This isn't merely about physical appearance, but about our very essence and purpose. Today, reflect on what it means to be God's image-bearer. How does this shape your identity? Your actions? Your relationships? Consider how you can more fully reflect God's character in your daily life, showing love, compassion, and righteousness to those around you.

Day 2: Allegiance to God's Kingdom

Reading: Matthew 6:33, Colossians 1:13-14

Jesus speaks of the in-breaking of God's kingdom—his rule and reign in our lives and in the world. This kingdom demands our ultimate loyalty and allegiance. In a world that pulls us in many directions, where do your true loyalties lie? Are there areas of your life where you're giving Caesar what belongs to God? Take time to examine your priorities, your use of time, and your deepest commitments. Ask God to help you align your life more fully with his kingdom purposes.

Day 3: Whole-Self Surrender

Reading: Romans 12:1-2, Luke 9:23-24

God doesn't desire just a part of us—he wants our whole selves. This includes our bodies, minds, hearts, and souls. Surrendering to God isn't a one-time event, but a daily choice to offer ourselves as "living sacrifices." What areas of your life are you holding back from God? What would it look like to surrender those areas today? Remember, this surrender isn't about loss, but about finding our true purpose and identity in Christ.

Day 4: Being Salt and Light

Reading: Matthew 5:13-16, Ephesians 5:8-10

As God's image-bearers, we're called to reflect his character to the world around us. Jesus uses the metaphors of salt and light to describe our role. Salt preserves and adds flavor; light dispels darkness and guides the way. How can you be "salt and light" in your specific contexts—at home, work, or in your community? Consider one practical way you can shine God's light or bring his flavoring influence to a situation you'll encounter today.

Day 5: Faith Amidst Persecution

Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-19, Romans 8:35-39

The sermon mentioned Christians facing severe persecution, unable to gather or worship freely. While our circumstances may differ, we all face challenges to our faith. How do we remain faithful when following Christ comes at a cost? Remember that suffering for Christ is an opportunity to participate in his sufferings and to witness to his sustaining grace. Reflect on how your trials, big or small, can be platforms for demonstrating the reality of your faith. Pray for persecuted believers around the world, that they would know God's presence and strength.