5-Day Devotional: How Long Will They Remember My Name?

Day 1: The World Is Passing Away **Reading: 1 John 2:15-17** **Devotional:** Every generation is tempted to treat the present moment as permanent. We build reputations, chase recognition, and measure our worth by what others think of us. But John's words cut through that illusion with surgical precision. The world is not a stable foundation — it is a fading one. Its promises are loud, but its memory is short. The world told Adam and Eve they could be like God. It tells us the same lie in different clothing. When we love the world more than we love the Father, we are trading something eternal for something that is already disappearing. The question is not whether the world will pass away. It will. The question is what you are building your life upon. **Reflection:** What desire, ambition, or pursuit has the world convinced you is worth your deepest energy? Is it something that will remain?

Day 2: The Brevity of Human Memory **Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:4** **Devotional**: There is something both sobering and freeing about the fact that the world will largely forget us. Sobering, because we instinctively want to matter, to leave a mark, to be remembered. Freeing, because if the world's memory is so short, then we were never meant to live for the world's memory in the first place. Ecclesiastes does not offer this observation to depress us. It offers it to redirect us. If a man's days are like grass, then the grass had better be rooted in something that does not wither. The brevity of life is not an argument for despair. It is an argument for choosing the right foundation before the wind comes. **Reflection:** Does the thought that the world will eventually forget your name produce anxiety or relief? What does your answer reveal about what you are living for?

Day 3: Remembered by God **Reading: Luke 10:20** **Devotional:** Jesus had just watched His disciples return from a successful mission. They were excited about what they had accomplished. His response was not to dismiss their joy but to redirect it toward something far more stable. Rejoice, He said, not because of what you did, but because of where your name is written. God's record is not like the world's record. The world's record fades. Generations come, photographs yellow, and even the most beloved names eventually leave ordinary conversation. But God's record is permanent. He does not forget His children. He does not overlook faithful work. He does not lose track of a single act of love done in His name. That is the only ledger that will still be open when everything else has closed. **Reflection:** Do you live as though God's record of your life matters more than the world's opinion of you? What would change if you did?

Day 4: Legacy Without Fame **Reading: Psalm 103:17-18** **Devotional:** Legacy does not require a monument. It does not require a famous name or a large platform. It requires faithfulness in the ordinary moments that no one is watching. A grandfather who prays. A mother who forgives. A father who keeps his word when it costs him something. A teacher who speaks one sentence that a student carries for forty years. None of these people may be remembered by name two generations later, but their influence will still be moving through the family line long after their name has faded from conversation. Scripture calls this "righteousness to children's children." That is not a reward for the famous. It is a promise for the faithful. The most important parts of your legacy may be entirely invisible to the world and entirely visible to God. **Reflection:** What character qualities, habits of faith, or patterns of love are you passing on to the people closest to you right now?

Day 5: Living for God's Glory, Not Your Own Name **Reading: Matthew 5:16** **Devotional:** The sermon's central challenge lands here: we do not need to live so that people will remember our name. We need to live so that people will remember what God did through our life. That is a profound distinction. One is about personal legacy. The other is about divine glory. Matthew 5:16 does not say to hide your light so that no one notices you. It says to let it shine — but to shine it in a direction that points away from yourself and toward the Father. The goal is not obscurity. The goal is transparency. A life so clearly shaped by God that people see through it to Him. Your name may fade. God's glory does not. Live for the one that lasts. **Reflection:** When people observe your life — your choices, your responses under pressure, your treatment of others — what conclusion are they most likely to draw about what you value most?