

5-Day Devotional: Preparing for the King's Return

Day 1: Rejoicing Always

Reading: Philippians 4:4-7; Psalm 100

Devotional: The command to "rejoice in the Lord always" isn't dependent on our circumstances—it's a choice rooted in who God is. When the people awaited their Messiah for 500 years, they were told how to respond: rejoice, shout, be loud. God inhabits the praises of His people. Today, we're also waiting—for Christ's return. Like those who prepared for Palm Sunday, we must intentionally choose joy. This doesn't mean ignoring pain, but recognizing that our battle is already won. Before your feet hit the floor each morning, declare: "This is the day the Lord has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it." Your praise ushers in His presence and changes the atmosphere around you.

Day 2: Worship as a Lifestyle

Reading: Psalm 22:3; Romans 12:1-2

Devotional: Worship isn't confined to Sunday mornings—it's the overflow of a surrendered heart. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, people used what they had: their coats, palm branches, their voices. They didn't wait until they felt worthy or had something impressive to offer. God doesn't need your resources; He wants your obedience and heart. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Today, consider what's in your hand. Your time? Your talents? Your testimony? Offer it to Jesus without reservation. Whether you sing on key or make a joyful noise, whether you serve with a smile or give sacrificially, let it all be worship. True worship transforms ordinary moments into holy encounters.

Day 3: The Power of "Hosanna"

Reading: Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:19-29

Devotional: "Hosanna" means "save us now"—a cry of desperation and adoration combined. The crowds recognized their need for a Savior and worshiped Him simultaneously. We often separate these: we ask God to save us from our troubles, then later (maybe) worship Him. But authentic faith holds both together. "Save us, Lord, we adore You!" This is the heart cry God honors. Today, bring your genuine needs before Him—your fears, struggles, and uncertainties—while simultaneously declaring His worthiness. He is both your Deliverer and your King. Don't sanitize your prayers or pretend you have it all together. Come honestly, come boldly, and come worshiping. Jesus didn't calm the storm because the disciples had perfect faith; He calmed it because He loved them.

Day 4: Living Set Apart

Reading: 1 Peter 1:13-16; Romans 12:1-2

Devotional: As Christians, we bear Christ's name, and something should look different about our lives. Not self-righteous or judgmental, but genuinely transformed. When you walk into a room, does the atmosphere change because Jesus shines through you? Holiness isn't about perfection—it's about direction. It's choosing daily to surrender your will to His, to let His character shape yours. The world is watching to see if our faith makes a real difference. Are we marked by love, joy, peace, and patience even in trials? Do we respond to offense with grace? Jesus didn't just save us from something; He saved us for something—to reflect His glory. Today, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal one area where you're blending in with the world when you should stand out for Christ.

Day 5: Are You Ready?

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 24:36-44

Devotional: Jesus is coming back. Not maybe, not possibly—He is returning for a church that's watching and waiting. For centuries, believers have anticipated this moment, and we're closer now than ever before. But anticipation requires preparation. The disciples didn't argue when Jesus gave them instructions; they obeyed immediately because they trusted His word. Are you living with the urgency of someone who believes He could return today? This isn't about fear—it's about readiness born from relationship. Examine your heart: Is there unforgiveness you're harboring? Sin you're excusing? Relationships you need to restore? Don't wait until you "feel ready." Confess your sins, receive His forgiveness, and walk in the freedom He died to give you. When the trumpet sounds, may you be found faithful, watching, and ready to meet your King.