

# 5-Day Devotional: The Path to True Greatness

## Day 1: The Cup of Suffering

**Reading:** Mark 10:32-40

**Devotional:** James and John asked Jesus for positions of honor, completely missing that Jesus was heading toward the cross. They wanted glory without suffering, exaltation without sacrifice. How often do we approach God the same way—asking Him to bless our plans rather than surrendering to His will? Jesus asked them, "Can you drink the cup I drink?" They confidently said yes, not understanding what they were committing to. True discipleship isn't about comfort or status; it's about following Christ wherever He leads, even through suffering. Today, ask yourself: Am I following Jesus for what I can get, or am I willing to drink from His cup of sacrifice? The path to glory runs through Calvary.

## Day 2: Redefining Greatness

**Reading:** Mark 10:41-45

**Devotional:** The world measures greatness by power, influence, and authority over others. Jesus flips this completely upside down: "Whoever would be great among you must be your servant." This isn't popular wisdom—it's divine wisdom that contradicts our natural instincts. We're wired to climb ladders, accumulate status, and assert dominance. But Jesus calls us to descend into servanthood. The Son of Man, who could have commanded legions of angels, instead washed feet and died on a cross. He came not to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom. Greatness in God's kingdom isn't about how many people serve you, but how many people you serve. Where can you stoop lower today to serve someone in Jesus' name?

## Day 3: Spiritual Blindness

**Reading:** Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:9-14

**Devotional:** The disciples couldn't see what was right in front of them. Despite walking with Jesus daily, they remained spiritually blind to His mission and their calling. Meanwhile, Bartimaeus—physically blind—saw Jesus more clearly than anyone. He recognized Jesus as the Son of David, the Messiah, and cried out for mercy. When Jesus called him, Bartimaeus threw off his cloak (his livelihood) and ran to Jesus. The rich young ruler couldn't do this; the disciples couldn't do this. But a blind beggar understood what religious leaders and devoted followers missed: Jesus is Lord, and nothing else matters. Are you clinging to your "cloak"—

the security, comfort, or identity that keeps you from fully following Christ? True sight begins when we see Jesus as He truly is.

## **Day 4: The Slavery of Freedom**

**Reading:** Romans 6:15-23; John 8:31-36

**Devotional:** Jesus calls us to become slaves—a *doulos*, a willing bondservant who loves the master so much they choose to stay forever. This sounds oppressive to modern ears, but it's actually the path to freedom. We're all slaves to something: money, approval, comfort, fear, sin. The question isn't whether you'll serve, but whom you'll serve. When you become a slave to Christ, you're freed from the tyranny of self and the crushing weight of living for your own glory. The rich young ruler was enslaved to his possessions. The disciples were enslaved to their ambition. But Bartimaeus found freedom in surrendering everything to follow Jesus. What enslaves you today? Only in becoming Christ's slave will you discover true liberty.

## **Day 5: Made for His Glory**

**Reading:** Isaiah 43:1-7; 1 Corinthians 10:31

**Devotional:** You were created for God's glory, not your own. This is the secret to joy that our self-obsessed culture cannot comprehend. James and John wanted glory; Bartimaeus wanted to glorify God. One path leads to indignation and misery; the other to satisfaction and exaltation. When we live for likes, follows, and human approval, we're chasing vapor. But when we live to magnify Christ—when we serve others, give generously, and humble ourselves—we enter into the eternal dance of the Trinity's love. Pride comes before destruction, but humility leads to exaltation. You'll never be more satisfied than when you're glorifying God. Stop performing for people's applause. Start living for an audience of One. In losing your life for Christ's sake, you'll finally find it.