

5-Day Devotional: Trading Earthly Treasure for Eternal Riches

Day 1: The Impossibility of Self-Salvation

Reading: Mark 10:17-27

Devotional: The rich young ruler approached Jesus believing good works could earn eternal life. Yet Jesus revealed a profound truth: "With man it is impossible, but not with God." We cannot save ourselves through moral excellence, religious activity, or material success. Like trying to thread a camel through a needle's eye, salvation by human effort is utterly impossible. This should humble us, but also bring tremendous relief. Our salvation doesn't depend on our performance but on God's grace. Today, stop striving to earn God's favor. Instead, receive His unmerited gift with open hands. Confess your inability and rest in His ability. Grace means you contribute nothing but your willingness to receive everything.

Day 2: The Deceitfulness of Riches

Reading: Matthew 6:19-24; 1 Timothy 6:6-10

Devotional: Wealth isn't evil, but it's dangerously deceptive. The rich young ruler had everything—except the one thing needful. His possessions possessed him. Jesus doesn't condemn prosperity but warns against divided allegiance. Money promises security, identity, and purpose—the very things only God can provide. When we trust in bank accounts more than our Heavenly Father, we've created an idol. Examine your heart today: What would you refuse to surrender if Jesus asked? That thing—whether money, relationships, career, or reputation—has become your functional god. Remember, you cannot serve two masters. The question isn't whether you're wealthy by the world's standards, but whether wealth has a hold on your heart. Choose today to hold everything loosely except Christ.

Day 3: Our Heavenly Father's Unfailing Love

Reading: Romans 8:14-17, 31-39

Devotional: Notice what Jesus omitted from His second list in Mark 10:30—"father." Why? Because those who belong to Christ never lose their Father. Earthly relationships end, but your Heavenly Father remains constant. He loved you enough to send His Son to die for you—a depth of love beyond comprehension. When you feel abandoned, rejected, or unloved, remember: you

have a Father whose mercies are new every morning, who provides daily, who longs to hear from you. Unlike earthly fathers who may disappoint or fail, your Heavenly Father is perfect in love, faithful in provision, and eternal in presence. Today, pray not just to Jesus, but to "our Father who art in heaven." Experience the security of being His beloved child.

Day 4: Hundredfold Blessings Amidst Persecution

Reading: Matthew 5:1-12; John 14:25-27

Devotional: Jesus promises hundredfold blessings—but notice they come "with persecutions." Following Christ doesn't guarantee health, wealth, or easy circumstances. So what are these blessings? Peace that transcends understanding. Rest for weary souls. Joy unspeakable. The presence of the Holy Spirit. Community with fellow believers. Purpose beyond yourself. These treasures far exceed anything the world offers. Kurt Cobain and Robin Williams had fame and fortune but lacked the peace Christ gives freely. You may be in a valley today, struggling to see blessings. Remember who you are in Christ, where you're going, and that He loves you. His Spirit abides with you. In the darkest trial, you possess more than the wealthiest unbeliever. Set your mind on things above.

Day 5: The Eternal Trade

Reading: Philippians 3:7-14; Revelation 21:1-7

Devotional: The rich young ruler made a catastrophic trade—he chose temporary wealth over eternal glory. What awaits those who choose Christ? Perfect bodies and minds. A feast prepared by God. Ruling alongside Jesus. Worship with innumerable saints. Face-to-face communion with the Father. The New Jerusalem where Christ is our light and we dwell in perfect creation under a perfect King. No more pain, death, tears, or sorrow. Forever. This was the inheritance rejected for earthly possessions that rust and fade. Today, Jesus places the same choice before you: Will you make Him Lord of everything? Not just your Sundays or your morals, but your money, time, relationships, ambitions—all of it? Choose Christ over everything. The trade is infinitely worth it.