

5-Day Devotional: The Temple of God

Day 1: Bearing Fruit, Not Just Leaves

Reading: Mark 11:12-14; Galatians 5:22-26

Devotional: Jesus cursed the fig tree not out of anger, but as a teaching moment about authentic faith. The tree had leaves—the appearance of life—but no fruit. How often do we display religious activity without spiritual substance? We attend church, sing worship songs, and post Scripture on social media, yet our lives may lack the fruit of genuine transformation. True conversion begins with faith and love for Christ, which naturally produces fruit through the Holy Spirit. Examine your life today: Are you cultivating leaves or fruit? Remember, we don't bear fruit to become saved; we bear fruit because we are saved. Ask God to produce authentic spiritual fruit in your life—love, joy, peace, patience—that flows from genuine relationship with Him.

Day 2: God's House, God's Way

Reading: Mark 11:15-17; Isaiah 56:6-8

Devotional: When Jesus cleansed the temple, He wasn't simply upset about commerce; He was confronting corruption that exploited the poor and excluded the nations. God's house was meant to be a place of prayer for all peoples, yet religious leaders had turned it into an exclusive club and financial enterprise. Today, you are God's temple—His Spirit dwells in you. How are you representing Him? Are you a beacon of light to those around you, or do you misrepresent His character through grumbling, unforgiveness, or self-righteousness? God desires that His temple—you—be marked by prayer, authentic worship, and inclusive love. Examine whether you're building walls or bridges. Let your life be a house of prayer that draws others to the Father.

Day 3: The Final Sacrifice

Reading: Hebrews 9:11-15; 10:10-14

Devotional: Jesus halted the temple's sacrificial system because He was replacing it with something infinitely greater—Himself. The blood of bulls and lambs provided temporary covering, requiring annual renewal. But Christ's sacrifice was once-for-all, eternally sufficient. His blood doesn't just cover sin; it cleanses us completely—past, present, and future. This is the heart of our message: "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." You don't need to return to the altar repeatedly, performing religious duties to maintain

your salvation. Christ's finished work is complete. Rest in this truth today. Let gratitude for His sufficient sacrifice overflow into how you live. Your central message to a broken world should be Christ crucified—the ultimate substitute who died so you could live.

Day 4: Living as God's Temple

Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20

Devotional: You are the temple of the living God. This isn't metaphorical—God's Spirit literally dwells within you. The magnificent physical temple in Jerusalem pointed forward to this reality: God living among His people, not in buildings made with hands, but in redeemed hearts. This truth carries profound implications. How you treat your body, what you allow into your mind, how you speak, where you go—all reflect on the Lord who resides within you. You're not just representing yourself; you're an ambassador for Christ. Whether at your workplace, in your home, or at the grocery store, you carry God's presence. Let this reality transform how you live. Shine brightly wherever you are. Make sure your temple honors the One who dwells there. Mortify sin and magnify Christ.

Day 5: Faith, Prayer, and Forgiveness

Reading: Mark 11:22-25; Matthew 6:9-15

Devotional: After exposing the temple's failures, Jesus taught His disciples—the new temple—how to operate properly: through faith, prayer, and forgiveness. These three elements form the foundation of faithful temple living. Faith trusts God's character and promises. Prayer maintains communion with the Father. Forgiveness reflects the grace we've received. Notice how Jesus connects forgiveness with prayer—unforgiveness blocks our fellowship with God. How can we herald the message of the cross while refusing to forgive those who've wronged us? Examine your heart today. Is there someone you need to forgive? Forgiveness isn't minimizing their offense; it's releasing them to God and freeing yourself from bitterness. Be a temple marked by faith that moves mountains, prayer that connects with heaven, and forgiveness that reflects Calvary's love.