

5-Day Devotional: The Cost and Treasure of Following Christ

Day 1: The Goodness of God Alone

Reading: Psalm 16:1-11; Romans 3:10-26

Devotional: The rich young ruler approached Jesus believing he could earn eternal life through his own goodness. Yet Jesus immediately challenged this assumption: "No one is good except God alone." This truth confronts our self-idolatry. We compare ourselves to others and conclude we're decent people, but before a perfect God, we all fall short. The beauty of the gospel is that we don't need to be good enough—Christ was good enough for us. His perfect righteousness becomes ours through faith. Stop measuring yourself against your neighbor and start measuring yourself against God's holiness. Only then will you recognize your desperate need for a Savior and discover that in Him alone is found true goodness, lasting peace, and eternal joy.

Day 2: The Object of Our Faith

Reading: John 6:25-40; Ephesians 2:1-10

Devotional: Every false religion teaches that salvation comes through human effort—do enough good deeds, achieve enlightenment, follow the rules. But Christianity stands utterly unique. We are not saved by the intensity of our faith but by the object of our faith: Jesus Christ. When the crowd asked Jesus, "What must we do to be doing the works of God?" He answered simply, "Believe in him whom he has sent." Salvation is not about your performance; it's about His perfection. You cannot earn what has already been freely given. Stop trying to justify yourself before God through your morality or religious activity. Instead, place your complete trust in the finished work of Christ. His obedience covers your disobedience. His righteousness becomes yours. This is grace.

Day 3: Counting the Cost

Reading: Luke 14:25-35; Matthew 16:24-27

Devotional: Jesus loved the rich young ruler, yet He demanded everything from him: "Sell all that you have and give to the poor, and come, follow me." This wasn't about poverty being virtuous; it was about divided loyalty. The man's wealth had become his idol, his security, his identity. Jesus offers no half-measures, no dual citizenship. Following Christ means He becomes Lord of everything—your

possessions, your career, your relationships, your very life. What are you clinging to that keeps you from fully following Jesus? What earthly treasure competes for your heart's devotion? Biblical conversion is not an emotion but an action—it means actually following Jesus. Count the cost today. What He offers in return—Himself, eternal treasure, abundant life—is worth infinitely more than anything this world provides.

Day 4: The Deceitfulness of Riches

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

Devotional: The rich young ruler walked away sorrowful. He kept his wealth but lost his joy. This reveals the deceitfulness of riches—they promise security, happiness, and significance but ultimately deliver emptiness. Money is not inherently evil, but the love of money creates a false sense of self-sufficiency that keeps us from depending on God. Our hearts are idol factories, prone to making treasures out of homes, careers, physical appearance, or bank accounts. These things aren't wrong in themselves, but when they capture our affections, they become dangerous. Jesus doesn't want your money; He wants your heart. Where is your treasure truly stored? Are you finding your worth in what you own or in the One you belong to? True contentment comes not from accumulation but from knowing Christ.

Day 5: Treasures in Heaven

Reading: Philippians 3:1-14; Colossians 3:1-17

Devotional: Jesus offered the rich young ruler a trade: earthly treasures for heavenly treasures, temporary riches for eternal reward, this world for the next. The man refused and remained miserable. What a tragedy—to come so close to the kingdom yet turn away at the threshold. Today, the same trade stands before you. Will you cling to the fading pleasures of this world or embrace the eternal joy found in Christ? God made you and knows exactly what you need. He knows the path to true satisfaction, lasting peace, and genuine purpose. Following Jesus may mean having less in worldly terms, but you gain everything that matters. Choose this day whom you will serve. Let go of whatever you're dragging behind you. Follow your Shepherd wholeheartedly. The treasure of knowing Christ surpasses everything else.