

Road to Redemption: A 5-Day Devotional Journey

Day 1: The Cost of Following

Reading: Mark 8:31-38

Devotional: Jesus spoke plainly about the path ahead—suffering, rejection, death, and resurrection. Peter's rebuke reveals our tendency to want Jesus without the cross. We desire the crown without the crucifixion. Yet Jesus calls us to deny ourselves and take up our cross daily. This isn't about minor sacrifices or giving up chocolate for Lent. It's about surrendering our entire agenda to His kingdom purposes. The Christian life isn't easy, but it is good. Today, examine what you're truly giving your life to. Is Jesus the substance of your life or merely a condiment you add for flavor? The hard road with Jesus leads to eternal glory; every other hard road leads back to the box.

Day 2: Choosing Your Hard

Reading: Matthew 16:24-27; Philippians 3:7-11

Devotional: Life is hard regardless of what you give yourself to. Career ambitions are hard. Chasing wealth is hard. Following Jesus is hard. The question isn't whether you'll face difficulty—it's which difficulty leads somewhere worth going. Paul counted everything as loss compared to knowing Christ. He chose his hard, understanding that earthly achievements end up back in the box when we die. What matters on our deathbed isn't our job title or bank account, but the relationships we've nurtured and the kingdom we've invested in. Where does your hard lead? Temporary success or eternal significance? Today, audit your calendar and bank account—they reveal what you're truly living for. Choose the hard that leads to everlasting life.

Day 3: Denying Self, Embracing Christ

Reading: Luke 9:23-25; Galatians 2:20

Devotional: "Deny yourself" sounds harsh to modern ears trained on self-care and personal fulfillment. But Jesus isn't asking us to hate ourselves—He's inviting us to find our true selves in Him. Denying yourself means surrendering your script for His story, your agenda for His kingdom, your sovereignty for His lordship. Paul understood this: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." This daily death to self paradoxically brings abundant life. What agenda are you clinging to? What script are you demanding Jesus follow? The morning routine of your soul matters more than your physical routine. Before checking your phone, check your heart. Have you yielded today's agenda to Him?

Day 4: Losing Life to Find It

Reading: John 12:23-26; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Devotional: Jesus presents a divine paradox: lose your life to save it. This defies human logic but reveals kingdom economics. A seed must fall into the ground and die to produce a harvest. Our momentary troubles are achieving eternal glory that far outweighs them all. Every sacrifice for Christ is an investment with eternal dividends. The world offers temporary satisfaction; Jesus offers everlasting fulfillment. You're investing your life somewhere—in career, comfort, control, or Christ. Only one investment survives death. Consider what you're holding onto that Christ is asking you to release. What "life" are you trying to save that's actually keeping you from true life? Today, practice the sacred exchange: give Him your small story for His grand narrative.

Day 5: The Morning Routine of Discipleship

Reading: Psalm 63:1-8; Mark 1:35

Devotional: Jesus modeled it—rising early to meet with the Father before the demands of ministry pressed in. What we give ourselves to first often determines what we give our lives to ultimately. Your morning routine reveals your true priorities. Does your phone get you before Scripture does? Do urgent matters crowd out eternal ones? The discipline of denying yourself begins with small, daily choices—opening God's Word before social media, prayer before productivity, worship before work. These aren't legalistic requirements but loving responses to grace. They're training exercises for the soul, preparing us to carry our cross throughout the day. What you do first shapes everything after. Tomorrow morning, before anything else, meet with Jesus. Let His kingdom agenda set yours.

May this journey deepen your commitment to walk the road of redemption, choosing the hard that leads to eternal life with Christ.