



# Hoboken Church

## Just Jesus: A 5-Day Devotional Journey

### Day 1: The One Voice That Matters

**Reading:** Matthew 6:1-4; 1 Samuel 16:7

**Devotional:** Every day, countless voices compete for our attention: expectations from others, social media metrics, workplace pressures, even our own insecurities. These voices all ask the same question: "Are you measuring up?" But God looks past the performance to your heart. Before you achieved anything, before you proved yourself worthy, God declared over you what the Father said to Jesus: "You are my beloved." Today, you don't need to perform for applause or polish your image. The Father already sees you, knows you, and loves you completely. His is the only voice that truly defines who you are. Before checking your phone or measuring your worth by productivity, pause and remember: in Christ, you are already loved.

**Reflection Question:** Which voice am I listening to most: God's or the world's?

### Day 2: Devotion or Display?

**Reading:** Matthew 23:5-7; Philippians 2:3-8

**Devotional:** The Pharisees turned their faith into a fashion show: bigger phylacteries, longer fringes, prominent seats. What began as devotion became a brand. We face the same temptation today. A sincere worship posture can become performative. An honest testimony can turn into a polished story we tell for effect. Even spiritual disciplines can shift from intimacy with God to identity signals for others. Jesus didn't chase applause because He already had His Father's approval. He asks us: "Where is your spotlight pointing?" The question isn't whether people see your faith, but whether your faith points them to God or to you. True devotion happens in the hidden places, where only the Father sees and His approval is enough.

**Reflection Question:** Am I doing this for God's glory or my own recognition?

### Day 3: Approval Already Given

**Reading:** Matthew 3:13-17; Galatians 1:10

**Devotional:** Before Jesus preached a sermon, healed anyone, or performed a single miracle, the Father spoke: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Approval came before achievement. We often reverse this, hoping that if we do enough, serve enough, or appear spiritual enough, we'll finally feel secure. But Jesus invites us to live from a different place from identity, not insecurity. In Christ, you're not obeying to become loved; you obey because you already are. You don't perform to earn affection; you live from affection already given. This changes everything your prayers, generosity, and obedience flow from love, not fear. Human approval is unstable and exhausting. God's verdict is final and freeing: you are His beloved.

**Reflection Question:** Am I working for approval or working from approval?

## Day 4: The Reward That Lasts

**Reading:** Hebrews 12:1-2; James 4:6-10

**Devotional:** Jesus endured the cross "for the joy set before Him." He saw beyond temporary pain to eternal reward. Applause fades quickly what energizes you today may be forgotten tomorrow. Recognition has a short shelf life. Living for human approval is exhausting because voices that praise you today will demand more tomorrow. But what God sees is never wasted. He sees the prayer no one heard, the obedience no one thanked you for, the quiet battle no one knows you're fighting. The world says, "Lift yourself now." Jesus says, "Humble yourself now, and I will exalt you." God doesn't reward polish; He rewards truth. He doesn't reward image; He rewards surrender. Choose the hidden act of faithfulness today the one only the Father sees.

**Reflection Question:** Am I living for applause that fades or reward that lasts?

## Day 5: Come As You Are

**Reading:** Luke 18:9-14; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

**Devotional:** The religious leader prayed about his accomplishments. The tax collector simply beat his chest and said, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Jesus said the second man went home justified. No amount of applause can heal what only grace can heal. Jesus didn't come to teach a better way to live He came to do for you what you could never do for yourself. He lived the perfect life, died in your place, and rose again so that anyone who trusts Him is forgiven and made new. You don't need to clean up first. You don't need to perform. Just come as you are and say, "Jesus, I need You." Then live from that place loved, forgiven, free. Start your day with the Father's voice, not the world's pressure. In Christ, you are already enough.

**Reflection Question:** Will I come to Jesus as I am or keep trying to earn my way in?

**Closing Prayer:** Father, help us look just to Jesus this week. Quiet the competing voices and let us hear Yours alone. Teach us to live from Your approval, not for human applause. May our lives point the spotlight to You, not ourselves. In Jesus' name, Amen.