

5-Day Devotional: The King Who Wouldn't Be King

Day 1: Power Perfected in Weakness

Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Devotional: The apostle Paul discovered what Christ revealed on the cross: God's power works best through our vulnerabilities, not despite them. We live in a world that demands we project strength, hide our struggles, and save ourselves. But the crucified King shows us another way. When we acknowledge our weaknesses, we create space for divine strength to work through us. Today, consider what vulnerabilities you've been trying to hide. What if those very places of weakness are where God's power longs to be revealed? Stop exhausting yourself trying to appear strong. Instead, be still. Let God's grace be sufficient. In your honest brokenness, you become a vessel for resurrection power.

Day 2: The Throne of Vulnerability

Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Devotional: Jesus didn't cling to divine privilege. He emptied himself, took on human flesh, and humbled himself to death on a cross. This is the mind of Christ we're called to embrace. True kingship, divine power, looks like self-giving love, not self-preservation. When we choose vulnerability over image management, connection over control, and authenticity over performance, we participate in Christ's own life. Reflect today on where you're grasping for control or protecting your position. What would it look like to release that grip? To trust that God's way of descending leads to resurrection? The path down is the path up in God's upside-down kingdom.

Day 3: Paradise for the Undeserving

Reading: Luke 23:39-43

Devotional: Dismas, the thief on the cross, received paradise not because he earned it, but because he recognized his need and asked. While others mocked Jesus to save himself, this dying criminal saw something different—a king whose kingdom operates by grace, not merit. Today, you will be with me in paradise. Not someday when you get it all together. Today. Right now, in your brokenness and need. God's kingdom is available to those who stop pretending and start asking. What do you need to bring honestly before God today? What mask are you wearing that keeps you from receiving the paradise Christ offers? Remember me, Jesus. That's all it takes.

Day 4: Be Still and Know

Reading: Psalm 46

Devotional: When mountains shake and waters roar, our instinct is to fight harder, work more, prove ourselves stronger. But God says something countercultural: Be still. Not passive, but present. Not resigned, but restful. In the stillness, we remember who God is—our refuge, our strength, our very present help. The God who makes wars cease by breaking weapons, not by winning battles. Today's world demands constant activity, endless productivity, perpetual self-improvement. But transformation happens in the stillness. Can you create space today to simply be? To stop striving and start receiving? To let God be God while you rest in divine presence? Mountains may shake, but God remains. Be still.

Day 5: Seek to Connect

Reading: John 17:20-26

Devotional: Jesus' final prayer before the cross wasn't for success, growth, or impressive programs. He prayed for connection—that we would be one as he and the Father are one, that the world would know God's love through our unity. Authentic connection is the signature of Christ's kingdom. Not pretense, not performance, but genuine relationship with God and one another. As you move through today, consider: Are you seeking to impress or to connect? Are you hiding behind what you think you should be, or offering who you actually are? The crucified King invites you into vulnerable community where you're known, loved, and connected. This is the kingdom. This is paradise. This is enough.