

5-Day Devotional: The Journey Beyond Easter

Day 1: Walking with the Unrecognized Christ

Reading: Luke 24:13-35

Devotional: The disciples walked seven miles alongside Jesus without recognizing Him. How often do we miss Christ's presence in our daily journeys? The resurrection wasn't just a single event to celebrate—it launched a movement requiring our participation. Like those travelers to Emmaus, we can become so consumed by discussing spiritual events that we miss encountering the living Christ beside us. Today, slow down. Look for Jesus in unexpected places—in conversations with strangers, in moments of service, in the faces of those different from you. The journey of faith isn't about arriving at knowledge; it's about recognizing Christ's constant companionship along the way.

Day 2: Hearts Burning Within

Reading: Luke 24:32; Psalm 119:105

Devotional: "Were not our hearts burning within us?" the disciples asked after Jesus revealed Himself. Scripture has power to ignite transformation when we engage it deeply. But this burning isn't meant to stay contained within us—it's fuel for mission. The disciples didn't remain in their comfortable reflection; they immediately returned to Jerusalem to share what they'd experienced. When God's Word stirs your heart, that's an invitation to movement, not just meditation. What makes your heart burn for God's kingdom? Where is that passion calling you to act? The Easter season challenges us to let our burning hearts propel us outward, carrying the resurrection message into spaces that desperately need hope.

Day 3: From Gathering to Going

Reading: Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:8

Devotional: Jesus spent forty days after resurrection preparing His followers for what came next: being sent. We love the gathering—the worship, the fellowship, the comfort of community. But faith isn't complete until we embrace the going. The architecture of that seminary chapel embodied a profound truth: we're not

meant to settle permanently but to be equipped and sent forth. Your church isn't a destination; it's a training ground. Consider how you've been shaped by your faith community. What have you learned that the world outside needs to hear? The gap between Easter celebration and Pentecost empowerment is filled with preparation. God is equipping you right now for the ministry ahead. Will you accept the commission?

Day 4: Making the Connection

Reading: James 2:14-17; Matthew 25:31-40

Devotional: Serving from behind a counter is good; sitting at the table is transformative. Those high schoolers discovered that ministry moves from duty to relationship when we step out from behind our protective barriers. Donating food feeds bodies; delivering it personally feeds souls—yours and theirs. Jesus didn't send manna from heaven; He became flesh and dwelt among us. He touched lepers, ate with sinners, and welcomed children. Today's challenge: take your service one step further. Don't just give—go. Don't just donate—deliver. Don't just pray for the hurting—sit with them. See their faces. Hear their stories. Make the connection. That's where Christ becomes real, where theology becomes incarnation, where your faith journey deepens immeasurably.

Day 5: The Already and Not Yet

Reading: Acts 2:1-4; John 14:25-27

Devotional: We live in the tension between resurrection victory and Pentecost empowerment, between knowing we win and learning how to live that victory daily. The disciples had seen the risen Christ, yet they still needed the Spirit's power to fulfill their calling. You already possess the knowledge of salvation, but are you walking in the fullness of Spirit-led mission? This season between Easter and Pentecost isn't empty waiting—it's active preparation. The torch has been passed to you. The same Spirit that filled those first disciples is available to you today. Your journey doesn't end at belief; it begins there. Where is God calling you to go? Who needs to hear your testimony? The world is waiting for your Pentecost moment.