

5-Day Devotional: Already in the Field

Day 1: Beyond Appearances

Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Devotional:

Samuel stood before seven impressive sons, yet God said "no" to each one. The prophet had to unlearn what he thought he knew about kingship. God's gentle rebuke echoes through centuries: "The Lord does not see as mortals see." We constantly assess worth by appearance, credentials, and visibility. But God sees the heart—the unseen depths where character forms and faith takes root. Today, ask yourself: What assumptions shape how I see others? Who have I dismissed too quickly? Where might God be at work in ways my framework doesn't recognize? The shepherd boy in the field wasn't waiting to become significant. In God's eyes, he already was. So are you.

Day 2: Already Chosen

Reading: Psalm 139:1-18

Devotional:

David wasn't brought inside because no one thought he mattered. He was an afterthought to his family, but never to God. Before Samuel arrived, before the anointing oil was poured, David was already chosen. This is the scandalous grace of God—you were chosen before you proved yourself, before you got your life together, before anyone noticed. The field wasn't a waiting room; it was where God already was. Your ordinary days, your overlooked corners, your unimpressive resume—none of these disqualify you from God's purpose. You are not waiting to become worthy of God's attention. You already have it. Completely. The limitation was never the point. You were always the point.

Day 3: The God Who Initiates

Reading: John 9:1-12

Devotional:

The man born blind didn't cry out. He made no request. Jesus initiated everything. This disrupts our transactional religion—the idea that we must perform, petition, or prove ourselves worthy before God moves. Jesus saw him, made mud, gave instructions, and changed everything. The man simply obeyed, not understanding who Jesus was or what was happening. God's love doesn't wait for our readiness or perfect faith. God moves toward us first, in our limitations, in our ordinary days. Where is Jesus initiating something in your life right now? What invitation have you received that doesn't make sense yet? Sometimes obedience precedes understanding. Sometimes seeing comes after washing. Trust the One who saw you first.

Day 4: The Cost of Seeing Clearly

Reading: John 9:13-34

Devotional:

The man received his sight and lost almost everything—his place in community, his parents' support, his religious standing. When God opens our eyes, we see what others refuse to acknowledge, and it can be costly. The Pharisees demanded he deny his experience to maintain their framework. But he had something unassailable: "I was blind, now I see." Truth-telling threatens systems built on control and certainty. Following Jesus may require you to stand alone, to speak your experience even when pressured to recant. Some people will choose their comfortable blindness over the disruption your seeing brings. That's their choice. Yours is simpler: will you honor what you've actually experienced with God, or perform for those who need you to stay small?

Day 5: Found in the Aftermath

Reading: John 9:35-41

Devotional:

After the man was cast out, Jesus went looking for him. This is the gospel in one sentence. When everyone else rejected him, Jesus found him specifically in his rejection. You are never more visible to God than when you feel most abandoned by others. Jesus doesn't wait for you to find your way back; He comes searching. "Do you believe?" Jesus asks. It's an invitation to relationship, not a test. The man's

response—"Lord, I believe"—comes after sight, after rejection, after Jesus pursued him. Faith often follows encounter rather than preceding it. If you're in the aftermath of something costly, know this: Jesus is looking for you right now. Not to shame you, but to reveal Himself more fully. The corner where you sit is exactly where the story turns.

Reflection Questions for the Week:

- Who in my life have I overlooked because they don't fit my expectations?
- Where do I need God to challenge my assumptions about what matters?
- What experience with God have I been pressured to minimize or deny?
- How does knowing God initiates toward me change my spiritual striving?
- Who needs me to go looking for them the way Jesus looked for the blind man?