

5-Day Devotional: Where Is Your Hope?

Day 1: Holy Ground Where You Stand

Reading: Exodus 3:1-6; Acts 7:30-34

Devotional:

God met Moses not in the promised land, but in the wilderness of Midian—a foreign place where Moses lived as an exile. When God appeared in the burning bush, He declared, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." This wasn't about geography; it was about God's presence.

Stephen reminded the religious leaders that God doesn't confine Himself to prestigious locations or privileged bloodlines. Wherever God meets His people becomes sacred space. You may not feel like you're in an ideal place today—perhaps you're in a season of exile, waiting, or uncertainty. But if God is with you, you're standing on holy ground right now.

Your salvation isn't determined by where you were born, who your parents are, or what church you attend. It's determined by God's presence in your life through Christ.

Reflection: Where have you been looking for God only in "religious" places? How might recognizing His presence in your ordinary moments change your perspective today?

Day 2: The Law Points to Jesus

Reading: Romans 3:19-26; Galatians 3:19-25

Devotional:

The Israelites couldn't keep God's law for even an hour before fashioning a golden calf. The law was never meant to be a ladder we climb to reach God—it was meant to be a mirror showing us our desperate need for a Savior.

When we stand before the Ten Commandments honestly, we all fail. Even our best moral efforts fall short. This isn't discouraging news—it's liberating! The law serves as our tutor, pointing us to Christ. Jesus didn't come to help good people get better; He came to make dead people alive.

Stop answering "Why should you go to heaven?" with "I" statements. "I go to church." "I'm a good person." "I tithe." Instead, let your answer begin with "He"—because of what Jesus accomplished on the cross. Your hope isn't in your ability to follow rules but in the One who perfectly fulfilled them for you.

Reflection: In what areas are you still trying to earn God's approval through your performance? How does resting in Christ's finished work change your approach to obedience?

Day 3: God Is Not Confined

Reading: Isaiah 66:1-2; Acts 17:24-28

Devotional:

The Jewish leaders believed they had exclusive access to God because they possessed the temple. But through the prophet Isaiah, God declared, "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me?"

God cannot be contained in buildings, traditions, or religious systems. He is everywhere, for everyone, because He made everything. This truth demolishes our attempts to monopolize God or create exclusive clubs of the saved.

The same God who met Abraham in Mesopotamia, Joseph in Egypt, and Moses in Midian meets you wherever you are today. He's not limited by your circumstances, your past, or your location. He's the God who fills heaven and earth, yet chooses to dwell intimately with those who have humble and contrite hearts.

Your relationship with God isn't about having the right religious credentials—it's about having a surrendered heart.

Reflection: Have you created a "box" that limits where or how God can work in your life? What would it look like to acknowledge His presence in unexpected places?

Day 4: Exposing False Assurances

Reading: Matthew 7:21-23; Philippians 3:4-11

Devotional:

Paul had an impressive religious résumé—circumcised on the eighth day, a Hebrew of Hebrews, a Pharisee, blameless under the law. Yet he counted it all as rubbish compared to knowing Christ Jesus. Why? Because he recognized these things were false assurances that couldn't save him.

We accumulate our own list: church attendance, family heritage, moral behavior, political affiliation, prayers we've prayed. These aren't bad things, but they become deadly when we trust them for salvation instead of Christ alone.

Stephen boldly confronted the religious leaders' false assurances—their birthright, their law-keeping, their temple. He loved them enough to tell them the truth: these pillars they trusted were crumbling foundations.

Where is your hope placed today? If you were asked, "Why should God let you into heaven?" would your answer focus on what you've done or what Christ has done? True assurance rests solely on the finished work of Jesus.

Reflection: Make a list of things you've unconsciously trusted for salvation. Confess them to God and ask Him to anchor your hope in Christ alone.

Day 5: The Cross of Christ Alone

Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Devotional:

You were dead in your trespasses and sins. Not sick, not struggling—dead. And dead people can't save themselves. This is the hopeless reality apart from Christ. But here's the glorious truth: God, being rich in mercy, made you alive together with Christ!

Salvation is entirely God's work from start to finish. He looked at you in your deadness and said, "I want that one." He sent His Son to die for you while you were still His enemy. He awakened your dead heart by His Spirit. And He keeps you by His grace.

This means you contribute nothing to your salvation except the sin that made it necessary. Your hope isn't in your church attendance, your family name, your moral goodness, or your religious activities. Your hope is in the cross of Christ alone—His perfect life, His substitutionary death, His victorious resurrection. This isn't just good news—it's the only news that can save. Rest in this today.

Reflection: How does understanding salvation as entirely God's work change how you live today? How does it affect your confidence in your eternal security?

Closing Prayer:

Father, forgive us for placing our hope in anything other than Jesus. Strip away our false assurances and religious pride. Help us see that we are hopeless without You, and that this hopelessness drives us to the cross where true hope is found. May we fall more deeply in love with Jesus each day, resting completely in His finished work. In Jesus' name, Amen.