

Day 1: Life's Wake-Up Calls

Reading: Luke 13:1-5

Devotional:

Jesus responds to tragedy not with theological explanations, but with urgent invitation: "Unless you repent, you will perish too." This isn't cruelty—it's compassion. When towers fall and violence erupts, God uses these moments to shake us from spiritual slumber. The question isn't "Why did this happen to them?" but "Am I ready?" Today, reflect on moments when life interrupted your routine—a close call, unexpected loss, or jarring news. These aren't random; they're divine wake-up calls. God isn't threatening you; He's rescuing you. The same fragility that took others' lives reminds us: tomorrow isn't promised. What needs to change today? Don't wait for another alarm.

Day 2: Understanding True Repentance

Reading: 2 Corinthians 7:9-11; Acts 3:19

Devotional:

Repentance—*metanoeo*—means far more than feeling sorry. It's a complete transformation of mind, heart, and direction. Many of us apologize without truly changing, attending church while harboring unchanged hearts. True repentance begins in how we think, moves to what we love, and transforms how we live. It's not behavior modification but total reorientation toward God. Consider the areas where you've repeatedly said "I'm sorry" to God without genuine change. What thought patterns need transforming? What affections need redirecting? Repentance isn't punishment—it's the pathway home. God offers mercy and grace through repentance, inviting you to turn fully toward Him and experience the life you were created for.

Day 3: Fruit Over Leaves

Reading: Matthew 7:15-20; John 15:1-8

Devotional:

Jesus cursed a fig tree full of leaves but devoid of fruit—a living picture of religious appearance without spiritual reality. It's easy to look fruitful: attend services, use Christian language, and maintain moral respectability. But God sees beyond the foliage to the branches. Are you producing the fruit of transformed character—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness? Or just maintaining religious leaves? The fruitless tree wasn't cursed for being sick; it was judged for being deceptive. Examine your life honestly. Where have you substituted activity for authenticity? Spiritual busyness for genuine growth? Jesus doesn't want your performance; He wants your transformation. Abide in Him, and fruit will naturally follow.

Day 4: The Gardener's Patience

Reading: Luke 13:6-9; 2 Peter 3:8-9

Devotional:

In Jesus' parable, the gardener pleads for one more year, promising to dig, fertilize, and fight for the fruitless tree. This is the heart of the gospel: Jesus intercedes for unproductive people like us. While we deserve judgment, He cultivates hard soil and gives chance after chance. God's patience isn't passive—it's actively working in your life, creating conditions for growth you cannot see. That struggle you're facing? It might be the digging. That uncomfortable season? Perhaps the fertilizer. The question is: will you respond? The tree must cooperate with the gardener's care. God's patience has purpose, but it requires your participation. Don't mistake His mercy for permission to remain unchanged.

Day 5: Don't Waste Your Chance

Reading: Hebrews 3:12-15; 2 Corinthians 6:1-2

Devotional:

"Today is the day of salvation." Not tomorrow. Not after you get your life together. Today. Jesus didn't answer why tragedy strikes; He answered what tragedy reveals—life is fragile, time is short, and grace is available now. How many "one more years" will you need? How many wake-up calls must sound before you truly awaken? The cross proves God's heart: Jesus died so you could repent, bearing your sin so you could bear His fruit. Don't waste wasted years with more wasted opportunities. The Bema Seat awaits—not to condemn, but to ask: "What did you do with what I gave you?" Let today be different. Repent deeply. Live fruitfully. Honor the Gardener who fights for you.