

5-Day Devotional: Do You Love Me?

Day 1: The Call to Leave Everything Behind

Reading: Matthew 4:18-22

Devotional

When Jesus called Peter and Andrew, they immediately left their nets and followed Him. Their response wasn't gradual or conditional—it was immediate and complete. They walked away from security, familiarity, and their professional identity to follow a carpenter from Nazareth. This kind of surrender is what authentic discipleship requires. Today, Jesus asks the same question of us: What are you willing to leave behind to follow Me? Perhaps it's a comfortable lifestyle, a relationship that hinders your walk with God, or simply your own plans and ambitions. The nets you're holding may feel safe, but they cannot compare to the adventure of following Christ. Radical obedience positions you for divine purpose. What nets is Jesus asking you to lay down today?

Day 2: When Pressure Reveals What Pride Conceals

Reading: Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75

Devotional

Peter boldly declared he would die for Jesus, yet within hours, he denied knowing Him three times. His failure wasn't from lack of love but from overestimating his own strength. Pressure has a unique way of exposing what's truly inside us. We don't always know what we're capable of until we're squeezed by trials, temptation, or fear. Perhaps you've made promises to God you couldn't keep. Maybe you've been disappointed by your own weakness. Peter's story reminds us that sincerity isn't enough—we need God's sustaining grace. The same mouth that confessed Christ also denied Him. This should humble us and drive us to dependence on the Holy Spirit. Your intentions may be genuine, but without God's strength, you'll falter under pressure. Acknowledge your weakness today and ask God for the grace to stand firm.

Day 3: Empty Nets and Divine Instruction

Reading: John 21:1-6

Devotional

After fishing all night, the disciples caught nothing. These were skilled fishermen working in familiar waters, yet their expertise produced empty nets. Sometimes God allows what once worked to stop working so we'll look back to the shore and seek His voice again. Human effort without divine direction leads to frustration and emptiness. But when Jesus instructed them to cast on the right side, everything changed. The same boat, same sea, same nets—but now with Jesus' instruction, they couldn't contain the harvest. Are you laboring in your own strength

today? Have you been working hard but seeing little fruit? Perhaps God is allowing the emptiness to draw you back to dependence on Him. The breakthrough you need may be connected to an instruction you've been ignoring. Obedience unlocks abundance. What is Jesus telling you to do differently?

Day 4: Running Toward Grace, Not Away From It

Reading: John 21:7-14

Devotional

When Peter realized it was Jesus on the shore, he didn't hide in shame—he plunged into the sea and swam toward Him. This is remarkable because the last personal encounter Peter had with Jesus involved denying Him. Yet instead of running from God in guilt, Peter ran to God in desperation. Shame says stay away; grace says come closer. Many believers allow failure to push them away from God's presence when that's precisely where they need to be. Jesus didn't greet the disciples with rebuke but with breakfast. He met their hunger with provision and their failure with fellowship. If you've been hiding from God because of past mistakes, hear this today: He's not waiting to condemn you—He's waiting to restore you. The safest place for a broken believer is still in the presence of Jesus. Don't let shame keep you from the shore.

Day 5: Restored for Purpose

Reading: John 21:15-19

Devotional

Three times Peter denied Jesus. Three times Jesus asked, "Do you love Me?" And three times Jesus gave Peter a commission: "Feed My sheep." Jesus didn't disqualify Peter because of his failure—He redirected him back to purpose. The greatest question in discipleship isn't about your talent, your past, or even your mistakes. It's about love. Do you love Jesus? If the answer is yes, then your calling remains intact. Peter's restoration happened at the same place where he was first called. The Sea of Galilee witnessed both his commissioning and his comeback. God often brings us back to the place of original calling to remind us that failure doesn't erase destiny. Your worst moment doesn't cancel God's purpose for your life. If there's repentance, humility, and love for Christ, there's still ministry ahead. Jesus is asking you today: Do you love Me? If yes, then rise and do what He's called you to do.