

5-Day Devotional: We Can't Keep It to Ourselves

Day 1: The Condition Before the Encounter

Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

Devotional

Before grace found Paul on that road, he was convinced he was on the right path. He had credentials, zeal, and certainty. Yet spiritually, he was dead. Ephesians 2 reminds us that this was not only Paul's condition but ours. Dead in trespasses. Walking according to our own direction. The power of this passage is not found in the diagnosis alone but in two of the most important words in Scripture: "But God." God interrupted our story. He made alive what was dead. Before you can fully appreciate what Jesus has done for you, sit honestly with who you were without Him. Your "was" is not a source of shame. It is the backdrop against which grace becomes breathtaking.

Reflection Questions

1. What does your life before Christ reveal about your need for grace?
2. How does remembering your "BC days" deepen your gratitude for what God has done?

Practical Application: Write down three specific ways your life has changed since encountering Jesus. Keep that list somewhere visible this week as a reminder of what grace has accomplished.

Day 2: The Encounter That Rewrites Everything

Reading: Acts 9:1-9

Devotional

Saul was not searching for Jesus. He was moving in the opposite direction with purpose, authority, and a plan. And then light broke in. The road to Damascus teaches us that Jesus does not wait for us to find our way to Him on our own. He steps into our path. He interrupts our agenda. He speaks into our blindness. Saul thought he could see clearly, but the moment true Light appeared, he discovered how dark his world was. Sometimes God disrupts what we think we know to reveal what we desperately need to know. The question Jesus asked Saul is worth sitting with personally: why are you moving in the direction you are moving, and who told you that was the right road?

Reflection Questions

1. Has there been a moment in your life when God interrupted your plans to redirect your path?
2. In what areas might you be walking confidently in your own understanding rather than in His light?

Practical Application: Spend fifteen minutes in silence today. Lay down your current agenda and simply ask God the question Saul asked: "Lord, what do You want me to do?"

Day 3: Obedience That Costs Something

Reading: Acts 9:10-17

Devotional

Ananias knew exactly who Saul was. He had heard the stories. He understood the danger. When God told him to go, Ananias did not pretend he was not afraid. He voiced his concern honestly. But then he obeyed anyway. That is the kind of faith God honors. Not the faith that never feels fear, but the faith that moves forward despite it. God's response to Ananias was not a lengthy explanation. It was a simple redirection: "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine." God was already speaking about Saul's future while Ananias was still processing Saul's past. Obedience sometimes means trusting God's vision of a person more than your own memory of them.

Reflection Questions

1. Is there someone in your life God may be calling you toward that your past experience with them makes difficult?
2. What would it look like to see that person the way God sees them rather than the way your history does?

Practical Application: Identify one person you have written off or kept at a distance. Pray specifically for them today, asking God to show you their potential rather than their past.

Day 4: Immediately -- The Testimony That Cannot Wait

Reading: Acts 9:18-22

Devotional

The word "immediately" in verse 20 is not accidental. Saul did not wait until he had a polished message. He did not wait until the people of Damascus had forgotten why he came. He did not wait until his past felt far enough away. The scales fell from his eyes, and he opened his mouth. What he carried into that synagogue was not a refined theological system. It was a raw, unfinished, undeniable story. He was blind, and now he could see. He hated Jesus, and now he followed Him. A testimony does not require a waiting period. It requires honesty and a willingness to speak. Someone in your life is waiting on the story you keep telling yourself is not ready yet.

Reflection Questions

1. What is holding you back from sharing what God has done in your life?
2. Who in your immediate world needs to hear your story more than they need a polished presentation of the Gospel?

Practical Application: Write out your testimony in three sentences or less. Practice saying it aloud. Look for one natural opportunity this week to share it with someone who needs to hear it.

Day 5: Finishing the Race -- Faith That Holds Through Everything

Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8 and 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Devotional

At the end of Paul's life, he was sitting in a prison cell. He had been beaten, shipwrecked, abandoned, and was facing execution. And yet his words carry no trace of regret. He had fought the good fight. He had finished the race. He had kept the faith. What is remarkable is that the man writing those words is the same man who was breathing threats and murder against the church in Acts 9. Decades of suffering had not weakened his conviction. They had deepened it. He tells Timothy in 1 Timothy 1:15 that he never stopped being amazed that grace had found him. That is the mark of a genuine encounter with Jesus. It does not wear off. It does not fade when life gets hard. It becomes the foundation that holds when everything else shakes.

Reflection Questions

1. How has your faith held up under difficulty? What has suffering revealed about the depth of your trust in God?
2. What would it look like for you to finish your race well, regardless of the circumstances surrounding you right now?

Practical Application: Read through Paul's summary of his sufferings in 2 Corinthians 11:23-28. Then read Romans 8:38-39, where Paul declares nothing can separate us from the love of God. Let those two passages sit side by side in your heart today as a reminder that the same God who met Paul on the road is with you in whatever road you are walking right now.