

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

Day 1: Faithful in the Small Things

Reading: Acts 6:1-7

Devotional

Stephen and Philip did not begin their ministry on a stage. They began by serving widows. They were chosen not because of their platform, but because of their character — men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. God rarely calls us to greatness before He calls us to faithfulness. The assignment you have right now, however small it appears, is not beneath you. It is preparing you. What you do in obscurity shapes what God can trust you with publicly. Do not despise the season of serving. Serve with your whole heart, and watch what God develops in you through it.

Reflection: What responsibility has God placed before you right now that you have been treating as too small to take seriously? How might faithfulness in that area be preparing you for something greater?

Practical Application: Identify one area of service in your church, home, or community where you have been holding back. Commit this week to showing up fully in that role, treating it as an act of worship rather than a task to be completed.

Day 2: Finishing Well

Reading: Acts 7:51-60

Devotional

Stephen's greatest sermon was not the one he preached with his words. It was the one he preached with his death. When they were taking his life, he looked toward heaven and prayed for the very people killing him. He died sounding like Jesus. The world is watching how believers respond under pressure. Anyone can speak about faith when life is comfortable. But the depth of your faith is revealed when comfort is stripped away. Stephen teaches us that the way we finish matters. Our final moments in any trial, any conflict, any season of suffering, are still an opportunity to bear witness to the character of Christ.

Reflection: How do you respond when you are treated unjustly? Does your response in those moments reflect the Jesus you proclaim in comfortable ones?

Practical Application: Think of a person or situation that has caused you pain or frustration. Write out a prayer for that person or situation, choosing to release bitterness and extend the same grace that was extended to you through Christ.

Day 3: Scattered but Still Speaking

Reading: Acts 8:1-8

Devotional

When persecution broke out in Jerusalem, the believers were forced from their homes, their community, and their comfort. From the outside, it looked like defeat. But Acts 8:4 reveals something extraordinary — those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Their location changed, but their confession did not. Persecution changed their address; it did not change their assignment. God is sovereign enough to take what the enemy designed for destruction and use it to accomplish what He already declared. The seeds of the Gospel were scattered across new ground, and fires began burning in places they never would have reached otherwise. Displacement is not abandonment.

Reflection: Has a painful or unexpected change in your life caused you to feel like God's plan has been disrupted? How might God be repositioning you rather than abandoning you?

Practical Application: Write down one difficult season or unexpected transition in your life. Beside it, write down at least one way God used that season to grow you, redirect you, or place you around someone who needed what you carried.

Day 4: You Do Not Need a Pulpit to Preach Jesus

Reading: Acts 8:5-8; John 4:1-10

Devotional

Philip crossed a boundary that most people in his culture would have refused to cross. Jews and Samaritans did not associate with one another. But Philip went to Samaria and preached Christ. He did not preach his preferences, his personality, or his opinions. He preached Christ. And the result was deliverance, healing, and great joy throughout the city. Jesus had already gone to Samaria in John 4, showing His disciples that the harvest included people they might have overlooked. Philip simply followed where Jesus had already gone. The Gospel was never meant to stay among people who look and think exactly like us. Your greatest witnessing opportunity may be just across your comfort zone.

Reflection: Who in your daily life do you tend to overlook or avoid because of difference in background, culture, or circumstance? How might God be calling you to cross that line with the love of Christ?

Practical Application: This week, intentionally start a conversation with someone you would not normally engage. It does not have to be a full Gospel presentation. Simply show genuine interest in their life. Let love open the door that words alone cannot.

Day 5: Changed People Change Places

Reading: Acts 8:12-17; Matthew 5:14-16

Devotional

Acts 8:8 is only seven words long, but it carries enormous weight: "And there was great joy in that city." Not just in a meeting. Not just in a building. The entire city felt the impact of the Gospel taking root in people's lives. When Jesus genuinely changes people, the effects cannot be contained within church walls. Changed marriages affect children. Delivered men and women affect neighborhoods. Restored families affect communities. Jesus did not call us to be light only inside the sanctuary. He said we are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. The world does not need a more impressive church. It needs a more present one.

Reflection: Is the joy you experience in worship visible in the spaces where you live and work throughout the week? What would it look like for the people around you to experience the overflow of what God has done in your life?

Practical Application: Identify one person in your life who does not yet know Christ. Commit to praying for them by name every day this week. Ask God to open a natural opportunity for you to share what Jesus has done for you — not a rehearsed speech, but a genuine testimony of His work in your life. Then be ready to speak when He opens the door.

"Those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word." — Acts 8:4