A House That Holds the City

Today's Reading: Matthew 5:14–16; Acts 2:46–47 | Audio: Day 5

> *"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid… Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."*
>
> — Matthew 5:14, 16 (KJV)

> *"And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart… And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."*
>
> — Acts 2:46–47 (KJV)

DEVOTIONAL

The Lord added to the church daily. Not only during special services or major events. Daily. That impact came from people who carried their faith beyond the gathering. They continued in doctrine, opened their homes, broke bread together, praised God, and lived with gladness and sincerity. Their faith became visible in ordinary life. Their homes were not private retreats from the world; they were outposts of the kingdom.

That is a powerful way to see your home. It can be more than a place where you sleep, eat, and recover from the week. It can be a place where the Word is alive, where prayer happens, where people are welcomed, where burdens are carried, where praise is normal, where the presence of God is honored.

Jesus said we are the light of the world, and that a city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Light is meant to be seen—not for our glory, not so people can admire us. Jesus said they should see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven. Our lives should point beyond us.

So here is the honest question: if someone observed your home for one full week, what would they see? Evidence of a kingdom household? Would they hear the Word spoken, see forgiveness practiced, see generosity, prayer, hospitality, praise —a faith that works outside of church walls?

This is not about having a flawless family—there are no flawless families. It is about intentional direction. A house that holds a city is not perfect. It is surrendered, available, willing to become a table where others find strength, truth, and love. It begins simply: a shared meal, a family prayer, a Scripture on the wall, a ride to church, a call to someone who has been absent, a commitment to stop living isolated and start living available. Ordinary homes become kingdom homes when ordinary people make an extraordinary commitment to Jesus.

DAY 5 • JOURNAL & RESPONSE

REFLECT

1. *If someone observed your home for one full week, what would they see?*

2. *What would an Acts 2 household look like in your specific context?*

RESPOND: TODAY'S PRACTICAL STEP

Gather your household, or a trusted fellow believer, and make a written commitment together. Then choose three areas where you will pursue intentional change beginning this week:

- ☐ Scripture
- ☐ Prayer
- ☐ Hospitality
- ☐ Generosity
- ☐ Worship
- ☐ Outreach

Our household commitment — the three areas we are starting with:

DAY 5 • PRAYER

PRAY

Lord Jesus, make our homes places that carry Your light. Let our lives point people toward You. Forgive us for hiding our faith or keeping our homes closed when You have called us to be available. Teach us to live with gladness, sincerity, generosity, and praise. Make us an Acts 2 people. Let our tables become places of healing. Let our houses become outposts of Your kingdom. Use us to reach our city, one life at a time. In Jesus' name, amen.

My own prayer:

REMEMBER THIS

The table that holds a city is built in a surrendered home.

Going Deeper: Acts 2:42–47 • Romans 12:9–13 • 1 Peter 2:9

This devotional is a tool for reflection, not a substitute for pastoral care or professional counseling. If what surfaces feels too heavy to carry alone, please reach out to a pastor or a trusted, qualified counselor at New Life Tabernacle Carrollwood.

Looking Back

The Word at home, a full response to the gospel, fellowship that costs something, praise that shifts the atmosphere, and a house made available — this is how ordinary homes become outposts of the kingdom. May your house be filled with the Word, the Spirit, fellowship, praise, and the light of Jesus.

The Word must come home	Deuteronomy 6 — Day 1
Born of water and Spirit	Acts 2:38 — Day 2
Fellowship that costs something	Acts 2:44–45 — Day 3
Praise that shifts the atmosphere	Acts 16 — Day 4
A house that holds the city	Matthew 5 — Day 5

FINAL REFLECTION

1. *Which day spoke to me most deeply, and why?*

2. *Where did God challenge the culture of my home during these five days?*

3. *What is the one change my household is keeping after this week?*

> **Ready to take a next step?**
>
> If these five days stirred a desire to repent, be baptized in Jesus' name, receive the Holy Ghost, or simply talk and pray with someone, we would be honored to walk with you. Reach out to a pastor or leader at New Life Tabernacle Carrollwood.