

# 5-Day Devotional: Living in the Kingdom of Heaven

## Day 1: The Poverty That Makes You Rich

Reading: Matthew 5:1-3; Philippians 2:5-8

Devotional: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." What does spiritual poverty look like? It's the honest recognition that before God, we have nothing to offer—no righteousness, no merit, no claim. This isn't self-deprecation; it's truth. Jesus Himself modeled this, emptying Himself and taking the form of a servant. When we approach God with empty hands and humble hearts, acknowledging our complete dependence on His grace, we discover the paradox of the kingdom: poverty becomes wealth. Today, examine your heart. Are you clinging to your own goodness, or have you surrendered to His? True spiritual richness begins when we admit our spiritual bankruptcy and receive the gift only God can give.

## Day 2: Hunger That Satisfies

Reading: Matthew 5:6; Psalm 42:1-2; John 6:35

Devotional: Have you ever been truly hungry or desperately thirsty? Jesus says those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled. But what are you really hungry for? The world offers endless distractions—entertainment, success, approval, comfort—yet none satisfy the soul. These are spiritual junk food. Jesus declares, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry." The question isn't whether you're hungry, but what you're feeding on. Are you consuming the temporary pleasures of this world, or are you feasting on the eternal Word of God? Today, assess your spiritual appetite. What consumes your thoughts and time? Redirect your hunger toward righteousness, and discover the only satisfaction that lasts.

## Day 3: The Peacemakers in a Divided World

Reading: Matthew 5:9; Romans 12:18; James 3:17-18

Devotional: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." In a world consumed by division, outrage, and conflict—especially visible on social media—God calls His children to be peacemakers. This doesn't mean avoiding truth or compromising convictions; it means actively pursuing reconciliation and unity. Notice Jesus doesn't say "peace lovers" but "peacemakers"—those who work, sacrifice, and labor for peace. The wisdom from above is "first pure, then peaceable." Where are you sowing discord or fueling division? Where could you build a bridge instead of a wall? As children of the Prince of Peace, we're called to reflect His character. Today, ask God to show you one relationship or situation where you can actively make peace.

#### **Day 4: Persecution and the Promise of Reward**

Reading: Matthew 5:10-12; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12-14

Devotional: "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness." This seems contradictory—how can persecution bring blessing? Yet Jesus says to "rejoice and be glad" when we suffer for His name. The world will not celebrate your faithfulness; it will challenge it. Standing for truth in your workplace, maintaining purity in relationships, or simply living out your faith may invite ridicule or rejection. But Jesus places you in remarkable company—the prophets who came before you. Your reward isn't found in this world's approval but in heaven's recognition. The question isn't whether persecution will come, but how you'll respond. Will you compromise to avoid discomfort, or will you count it joy to suffer for Christ? Today, remember: eternity far outweighs temporary hardship.

#### **Day 5: Made for More**

Reading: Matthew 5:13-16; Ephesians 2:8-10; Colossians 3:1-4

Devotional: You were made for more than this world offers. The Beatitudes aren't a checklist to earn heaven; they're characteristics of those already in God's kingdom. You can't be good enough to earn salvation—it's a gift of grace. But once you've received that gift, you're transformed into salt and light, created for good works God prepared in advance. The kingdom of heaven isn't a building or a place; it's people—redeemed, transformed people living for eternity while still on earth. Don't settle for checking the Sunday morning box while your heart remains unchanged. Are you pursuing the

"more" God offers—deeper relationship, intimate community, sacrificial service? Eternity is not far away. Today, examine whether your life reflects kingdom values or worldly priorities. Surrender fully to the King.