

5-Day Devotional: Living as Kingdom People

Day 1: Checking Your Motives

Reading: Matthew 6:1-4

Devotional: Jesus begins this powerful teaching by asking us to examine why we do what we do. When we give, serve, or help others, are we seeking applause from people or approval from God? The difference matters eternally. Human recognition provides temporary satisfaction, but God's reward lasts forever. Today, consider your recent acts of generosity or service. Did you feel disappointed when no one noticed? That disappointment reveals where your heart was focused. God sees everything done in secret. He knows your sacrifice when no one else does. Choose today to do one kind act that only God will know about. Experience the freedom of serving an audience of One. Your Heavenly Father sees, and His "well done" is worth far more than any earthly applause.

Day 2: The Priority of Prayer

Reading: Matthew 6:5-8

Devotional: Prayer is not a performance for others to admire. Jesus warns against praying to impress people with eloquent words or spiritual-sounding phrases. Instead, He invites us into intimate conversation with our Father. Notice Jesus calls God "Father" - not a distant deity, but a loving Dad who wants to hear from His children. Your prayers do not need to be lengthy or sophisticated. God is not grading your vocabulary. He simply wants your heart. When you were a child, you ran to your father without rehearsing your words. Bring that same authentic approach to your Heavenly Father. He already knows what you need before you ask, yet He delights in the relationship prayer creates. Today, talk to God like you would talk to someone who loves you completely.

Day 3: Praying God's Kingdom

Reading: Matthew 6:9-13

Devotional: The Lord's Prayer begins with worship and surrender before making any requests. "Hallowed be Your name" reminds us who we are approaching - the Holy God of the universe. "Your kingdom come, Your will be done" shifts our focus from earthly concerns to heavenly priorities. How often do we pray this way? Most prayers sound like shopping lists for God. But

kingdom people pray for heaven's values to invade earth. They pray for God's will rather than demanding their own. Notice the prayer acknowledges our daily needs, our constant need for forgiveness, and our vulnerability to temptation. We need God's protection and provision every single day. This is not a prayer of independence but dependence. Today, pray through this prayer slowly, letting each phrase reshape your priorities and perspective.

Day 4: Where Your Treasure Lives

Reading: Matthew 6:19-24

Devotional: Jesus makes a profound statement: wherever your treasure is, that is where your heart will be. Want to know what you truly value? Follow your calendar and your wallet. They reveal your real priorities. You cannot serve both God and money. Not because God is threatened by competition, but because divided loyalty destroys us. Money makes a terrible master but a useful servant. When possessions sit on the throne of your life, you become enslaved to acquiring, protecting, and worrying about them. But when God is on the throne, everything else finds its proper place. Your house, car, savings, and belongings become tools for kingdom purposes rather than idols demanding your worship. Examine your bank statement and schedule this week. Do they reflect someone living for God's kingdom or building their own?

Day 5: Living Without Worry

Reading: Matthew 6:25-34

Devotional: After addressing money and possessions, Jesus tackles worry. If God feeds the birds and clothes the flowers, will He not care for you? Worry reveals misplaced trust. It suggests God either does not know your needs or cannot meet them. Both are false. Your Heavenly Father knows exactly what you need. Worry accomplishes nothing except stealing your peace and energy. Kingdom people live differently. They seek God's kingdom first, trusting that everything else will be provided. This is not irresponsibility but radical faith. It means working diligently while trusting completely. It means planning wisely while refusing to be consumed by anxiety. Today's troubles are sufficient for today; do not borrow tomorrow's problems. Focus on being faithful today, right now, in this moment. Seek His kingdom, and watch how God provides for His children.