

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on the Sermon Series: Fall Brawl

Central Theme: What Is God Asking Me to Do With What He Is Doing in Me?

Day 1: Cry Out and Do Not Be Silenced

Reading: Mark 10:46-48 - The passage describes Bartimaeus crying out to Jesus despite the crowd rebuking him and demanding his silence.

Devotional: There are voices in every season of life that will tell you to be quiet, to settle, and to stop reaching for more of God. Those voices may come from people around you, from your own past failures, or from the weight of shame. Bartimaeus refused every one of them. He had nothing to lose and everything to gain. His desperation was not a weakness. It was his greatest act of faith. The question for you today is not whether Jesus can hear you. He already can. The question is whether you are willing to cry out anyway, regardless of who is watching or what anyone thinks.

Practical Application: Identify one area of your life where you have gone silent before God. Write it down. Bring it to him in prayer today without editing or softening it. Simply cry out.

Day 2: Let Go of What Is Holding You Back

Reading: Mark 10:49-50 - The passage describes Bartimaeus throwing off his cloak and rising to go to Jesus when called.

Devotional: The cloak Bartimaeus threw aside was more than a piece of fabric. It was his boundary, his comfort zone, and the only security he had ever known as a blind beggar. Yet the moment he heard that Jesus was calling him, he left it behind without hesitation. You cannot walk into everything

God has for you while constantly holding on to everything behind you. This is one of the most honest tensions in the Christian life. Comfort is not wrong, but when comfort becomes the reason you do not move, it has become a cloak worth throwing off.

Practical Application: Prayerfully ask God to show you one comfort, habit, or attachment that is functioning as a barrier to your next step of obedience. Ask him for the courage to release it.

Day 3: Know What You Want From Jesus

Reading: Mark 10:51 and Proverbs 16:3 - Jesus asks Bartimaeus what he wants, and Bartimaeus answers clearly. Proverbs 16:3 describes committing your works to the Lord so that your plans are established.

Devotional: Jesus asked Bartimaeus a direct question: what do you want me to do for you? He did not ask because he lacked information. He asked so that Bartimaeus would know, without any doubt, exactly who provided the answer. God is not honored by vague, directionless faith. He is honored when you trust him enough to bring him something specific. Many believers struggle in prayer not because God is distant but because they have never taken time to honestly answer the question Jesus is still asking today. Clarity in what you are asking for produces clarity in recognizing when God responds.

Practical Application: Spend fifteen minutes in prayer today and answer the question honestly: if Jesus sat across from you right now and asked what you wanted him to do, what would you say? Write the answer down and pray it specifically.

Day 4: The Miracle Is the Beginning, Not the Destination

Reading: Mark 10:52 and John 10:10 - Jesus restores Bartimaeus and tells him his faith has made him well. John 10:10 records Jesus declaring that he came so that people might have life and have it to the full.

Devotional: After Bartimaeus received his sight, he did not walk away to pursue all the things he had missed during his years of blindness. He followed Jesus on the way. The miracle was not the finish line. It was the starting line. This is one of the most overlooked truths in the Christian life. Salvation is a miracle, but it is not the final destination, it is the beginning of one. God does not restore you simply so you can return to your old life with better circumstances. He restores you so that you will follow him into the life he designed you for from the beginning.

Practical Application: Reflect on a moment when God answered a prayer or brought you through a difficult season. Ask yourself honestly whether that moment drew you closer to Jesus or simply back to your normal routine. Let your answer shape how you move forward today.

Day 5: Pursue Jesus, Not Only What Jesus Can Do

Reading: Mark 10:52, Matthew 16:26, and Romans 8:28 - Bartimaeus follows Jesus after being healed. Matthew 16:26 raises the question of what a person gains by winning the world but losing their soul. Romans 8:28 describes God working all things together for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose.

Devotional: There is a profound difference between wanting what Jesus can do for you and wanting Jesus himself. Most of us begin our faith lives in the first category, and there is grace for that. But maturity in Christ means arriving at a place where you would follow him even if he never added another blessing to your life. The declaration that honors God most is not a list of requests; it is a surrendered life that says however, whenever, wherever, and whatever you ask me to do, my answer in advance is yes. That kind of pursuit does not happen accidentally. It is chosen, daily, one step at a time.

Practical Application: Read back through the values, declarations, and desires that define your life right now. Ask God honestly whether those things reflect a pursuit of him or a pursuit of what he can provide. Surrender the difference to him in prayer, and take one concrete step today toward following him on the way.

Reflection Questions:

When Jesus asked Bartimaeus 'What do you want me to do for you?', he received a specific and immediate answer. If Jesus asked you that same question today, how clearly and honestly could you answer him, and what does the clarity or lack of clarity in your answer reveal about your faith?

The sermon draws a distinction between wanting what Jesus can do for you and simply wanting Jesus himself. In what practical ways does your daily life reflect which of these two you are actually pursuing?

Mickey describes the cloak of Bartimaeus as representing comfort, safety, and the past, and says you cannot walk into everything God has for you while constantly holding on to everything behind you. What is the 'cloak' in your own life that you have been unwilling to throw off?

Proverbs 16:3 describes God establishing your plans when you commit your works to him. How does this challenge or reshape the way you typically approach prayer and decision-making?

Mickey argues that God sometimes invites us to name what we want not because he is unaware, but so that we will recognize him as the source when he provides it. How might this change the way you pray about specific needs and desires in your life?

After receiving his sight, Bartimaeus did not go pursue the life his blindness had previously prevented him from living, instead he followed Jesus. What does this response suggest about how a genuine encounter with Christ should reorder our priorities and direction?

The sermon suggests that many people struggle in marriage, faith, and other relationships because they want what the other person can provide more than they want the person themselves. Where do you see this pattern operating in your most important relationships?

Mickey identifies three diagnostic questions for understanding what you are truly pursuing: what do you value most, what do you talk about most, and what do you want most. How honestly do your answers to these three questions align with the life of faith you claim to desire?

The sermon challenges the idea that salvation is the final destination of the Christian life, calling it instead the beginning of the destination. In what ways has your own faith journey reflected growth and forward movement beyond the moment of your conversion?

Mickey says the hardest part of his role is wanting something more for someone than they want for themselves. Have you ever recognized that God or a trusted person in your life has seen more potential and possibility in you than you have been willing to see in yourself, and what has held you back from embracing that vision?