

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: A Different Kind of Filter

Devotional

Most of us spend a lot of energy protecting our time. We build routines, set boundaries, and quietly decide what deserves our attention and what does not. That is not always wrong. But it is worth asking whether our filters are shaped more by convenience than by compassion.

In Mark 2, four friends carried their paralyzed companion to Jesus. When they could not get through the crowd, they climbed to the roof and tore it open. That is not a subtle move. That is desperation meeting determination. And when Jesus looked up at the man being lowered through the ceiling, He was not annoyed. He was moved.

Jesus filtered His life differently than most people around Him. He was not looking for the polished or the put-together. He was looking for the people who needed Him most. The ones others walked past, He stopped for. The ones others dismissed, He welcomed.

You may not think of yourself as someone who filters people out. But all of us, at some point, have been too busy, too tired, or too focused on our own agenda to notice the person right in front of us who needed a moment of our attention.

The good news is that Jesus is not just our example here. He is our source. As we grow closer to Him, we begin to see people the way He sees them, not as interruptions, but as opportunities.

Bible Verse

"When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralyzed man, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'" - Mark 2:5

Reflection Question

Think about the last time someone or something interrupted your plans. Looking back, could that moment have been an opportunity you almost missed?

Quote

"The interruptions we avoid. Jesus seemed to welcome the people we dismissed. Jesus seemed to notice the boundaries we guard against."

Prayer

Lord, soften my heart toward the people I am tempted to overlook. Help me to see others the way You see them, with compassion and purpose. Amen.

Day 2: Bold Faith Shows Up

Devotional

There is something remarkable about the four friends in Mark 2. They did not wait for a better moment. They did not let the crowd, the logistics, or the impossibility of the situation stop them. They got their friend to Jesus, even if it meant tearing apart someone's roof to do it.

That kind of faith is contagious. It is also deeply encouraging, especially if you are the one being carried right now.

Maybe your faith feels small today. Maybe you are the paralyzed man in this story, not the one climbing the roof, but the one being lowered down. That is okay. Sometimes what we need most is not more faith of our own, but friends who will believe on our behalf, friends who will pray when we cannot, who will show up when we are too worn down to ask.

And if you are in a season of strength, this story is a challenge. Someone in your life may need you to be that friend. Not the one with all the answers, but the one who refuses to give up on getting them close to Jesus.

Bold faith does not always look dramatic. Sometimes it looks like a phone call, a meal dropped off, or simply sitting with someone in their pain. But it moves. It acts. And Jesus notices.

Bible Verse

"Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on." - Mark 2:3-4

Reflection Question

Is there someone in your life right now who needs you to show up for them with bold, persistent faith, even when it is inconvenient?

Quote

"Jesus loved bold, audacious faith that I'm going to do whatever it takes to get close to Jesus because he's the answer for this man, because He's the hope that we need."

Prayer

Jesus, give me the courage to be the kind of friend who does not give up. Show me who needs me to carry them closer to You today. Amen.

Day 3: Worthiness vs. Neediness

Devotional

The religious leaders in Mark 2 had a system. They filtered for worthiness. They wanted to know if someone had earned the right to be in the room, if they had followed the right rules and checked the right boxes. It was a tidy system, but it left a lot of people on the outside.

Jesus operated with a completely different filter. He was not looking for people who had it all together. He was drawn to people who were falling apart. Not because brokenness is the goal, but because those are the people who know they need help.

This is one of the most freeing truths in all of Scripture. You do not have to clean yourself up before coming to Jesus. You do not have to have the right words or the right track record. You just have to come.

And here is the encouragement for today. If you have been waiting until you feel worthy enough to bring something to God, stop waiting. He is not filtering for your worthiness. He is responding to your neediness. That is not a weakness. That is an invitation.

Bring what you have, even if it is broken. Bring who you are, even if it is messy. Jesus has a way of meeting people exactly where they are and doing something far greater than they expected.

Bible Verse

"Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, 'Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?'" - Mark 2:6-7

Reflection Question

In what area of your life have you been waiting to feel "worthy enough" before bringing it honestly to God?

Quote

"The religious leaders had their own filter. They would filter for worthiness while Jesus was filtering for neediness."

Prayer

Father, thank You that You do not require me to have it all together before I come to You. Help me to stop hiding and start trusting You with the broken places. Amen.

Day 4: This Isn't Chaos, It's Kairos

Devotional

There is a Greek word worth knowing: kairos. It means a significant, appointed moment. Not just the passing of time, but the purpose of time. A moment that is not on your calendar, but is very much on God's.

When four men tore open a roof in Capernaum, it looked like chaos. The crowd was packed in. Dust was falling. A man on a mat was being lowered into the middle of everything. But it was not chaos at all. It was kairos. God was not interrupting what Jesus was doing. He was creating an opportunity for Jesus to demonstrate the very kingdom He had been teaching about.

The same thing happens in our lives more often than we realize. The unexpected conversation. The delay that puts you in the right place at the right time. The need that surfaces at the most inconvenient moment. These can feel like disruptions, but they may be divine appointments in disguise.

Learning to ask "Is this kairos?" in the middle of an interruption is a small shift that can change everything. It moves you from frustration to curiosity. From resistance to openness. You begin to look for what God might be doing rather than mourning what you had planned.

God is always at work. The question is whether we are paying attention.

Bible Verse

"Immediately Jesus knew in His Spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and He said to them, 'Why are you thinking these things?'" - Mark 2:8

Reflection Question

When something unexpected disrupts your day, what is your first instinct, and what would it look like to pause and ask if God might be in it?

Quote

"This isn't chaos, it's kairos. It's not chaos, it's kairos."

Prayer

Lord, train my eyes to see kairos moments instead of just inconveniences. Help me to stay open to what You are doing, even when it surprises me. Amen.

Day 5: What If This Is the Work?

Devotional

It is easy to think of our real work as the things on our to-do list. The meetings, the projects, the responsibilities we planned for. Everything else can feel like it is getting in the way.

But what if some of those interruptions are not getting in the way of the work? What if they are the work?

Jesus did not treat the man lowered through the roof as a distraction from His ministry. That moment was His ministry. He leaned into it fully, and in doing so, He healed a man, revealed His identity, and demonstrated the kingdom of God to everyone in the room. What looked like a disruption became one of the most significant moments in Mark's Gospel.

You do not have to manufacture divine appointments. You just have to stay aware enough to recognize them when they arrive. The neighbor who lingers a little too long. The coworker who seems off today. The family member who reaches out at an inconvenient time. These moments may carry more weight than anything else on your schedule.

Kronos counts the hours. Kairos redeems them. As you move through this week, carry this question with you: What if the interruption in front of me is exactly where God wants me to be right now? That question alone can transform an ordinary day into something eternal.

Bible Verse

"He said to the paralyzed man, 'I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.'" - Mark 2:11

Reflection Question

What would change about how you approach your day if you genuinely believed that some of your interruptions were placed there by God on purpose?

Quote

"What if the elderly man isn't an interruption to your work? What if the elderly man is your work?"

Prayer

God, help me to hold my plans loosely and keep my eyes open. May I never be so focused on my agenda that I miss the people and moments You have placed in my path. Amen.