

5-Day Devotional: The King We Expected and The King We Need

Day 1: Recognizing the True King

Reading: Zechariah 9:9; Luke 19:28-40

Devotional: Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a humble donkey, fulfilling ancient prophecy. The crowds praised Him for miracles they'd witnessed, but many missed who He truly was. They wanted a political deliverer, not a spiritual Savior. Today, ask yourself: Do I follow Jesus for what He can do for me, or for who He is? True worship flows from recognizing Christ as King—not just a miracle-worker or problem-solver. When we see His face rather than just His hands, our worship becomes authentic and unconditional. Let this truth transform your relationship with Him: He is worthy of praise simply because He is God, regardless of circumstances or answered prayers.

Day 2: The Heart That Sees Beyond Miracles

Reading: John 12:1-8

Devotional: Mary's extravagant worship reveals a heart aligned with God's purposes. She didn't serve Jesus because of what she hoped to receive; she worshiped because she recognized who He was. Her generous, believing, condescending love poured out without reservation or calculation. This is the heart posture God desires from us—worship without agenda, service without strings attached. Examine your own heart today: Is your devotion conditional on answered prayers? Mary's alabaster jar represents our willingness to give God our most precious possessions—time, talent, treasure—simply because He deserves it. Aligned hearts recognize the true King and respond with lavish, sacrificial love that holds nothing back.

Day 3: When Expectations Meet Reality

Reading: James 4:13-16; Proverbs 3:5-6

Devotional: Unmet expectations can become spiritual battlegrounds. The crowd that praised Jesus on Sunday cried "Crucify Him" by Friday when He didn't meet their expectations of a conquering king. When life doesn't unfold as we planned, we face a choice: trust God's sovereignty or judge Him unrighteous. Perhaps you've prayed for healing that hasn't come, relationships that haven't been restored, or dreams that remain unfulfilled. The key is surrendering expectations to God's will while maintaining faith in His goodness. Balance belief in His promises with submission to His timing and purposes. Your circumstances don't define His character. Trust Him with all your heart, even when understanding escapes you.

Day 4: Maintaining Gratitude in the Waiting

Reading: Psalm 27:4-8; 1 Peter 5:6-7

Devotional: Seeking God's face rather than just His hands transforms how we navigate disappointment. When expectations remain unmet, cultivating gratitude becomes an act of spiritual warfare against bitterness and doubt. God invites us: "Seek My face." This means pursuing relationship with Him beyond what He can provide. Start a gratitude journal, listing ten blessings daily. This practice redirects focus from what's missing to what's present, from closed doors to open windows. Cast your anxieties on Him because He genuinely cares. In the waiting, worship anyway. In the uncertainty, praise anyway. In the pain, thank Him anyway. This attitude of gratitude doesn't deny reality; it anchors you in the greater reality of God's faithful love.

Day 5: The God Who Weeps With Us

Reading: Luke 19:41-44; Romans 8:28-39

Devotional: Jesus wept over Jerusalem not because of His impending suffering, but because people rejected the peace He offered. He sees your future, your struggles, your unmet expectations—and He weeps with you. His tears remind us that God isn't distant or indifferent to our pain. Even when He allows difficult circumstances, He remains for you, not against you. Nothing—not disappointment, suffering, or shattered dreams—can separate you from His love. He holds you in His hands even when you cannot feel His grip. Today, remember: God is good all the time, even when life isn't. His plans for you are good, even when you cannot see the full picture. Trust that He who began a good work in you will complete it.
