

2026-04-22 5 Day Devotional

5-Day Devotional: From Darkness to Light

Day 1: The God Who Sees Us in Our Brokenness

Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Devotional: The Ten Commandments aren't just ancient rules—they're a mirror revealing our desperate need for a Savior. Like Jason's honest confession, we must acknowledge that we've all fallen short. Perhaps you've broken every commandment too, in thought if not in deed. The beautiful truth is that God gave us these standards not to condemn us, but to show us our need for grace. When we stand before this mirror and see our true reflection, we discover something extraordinary: God already knows our worst moments, yet He pursues us anyway. Your past doesn't disqualify you from God's love—it qualifies you to understand the depth of His mercy. Today, confess honestly before God. He's not shocked by your sin; He's ready with forgiveness.

Day 2: Mercy for the Worst of Sinners

Reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Devotional: Paul called himself the "worst of sinners," yet God showed him abundant grace. This passage reminds us that no one is beyond redemption. Jason's story of addiction, violence, and self-destruction mirrors many of our hidden struggles. Yet the same Jesus who transformed Paul transformed Jason—and He can transform you. Notice that Paul didn't minimize his past; he acknowledged it fully while marveling at God's patience. Your darkest chapter can become your greatest testimony. The very things you're most ashamed of can display Christ's "immense patience as an example" to others. God doesn't waste our pain; He redeems it. Whatever you've done, whoever you've been, Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. That includes you. Let His mercy wash over you today.

Day 3: The Power of Spiritual Community

Reading: Mark 2:1-5

Devotional: The paralyzed man couldn't get to Jesus alone—he needed mat carriers. This powerful image shows us that isolation is the enemy of transformation. Jason found healing not just through personal faith, but through intentional relationships with other believers who carried him when he couldn't walk on his own. Who are your mat carriers? Who knows your struggles, prays for you daily, and holds you accountable? Equally important: whose mat are you carrying? The Christian life was never meant to be lived alone. The men who tore through the roof didn't give up when obstacles appeared—they got creative and persistent. True spiritual friendship requires that kind of commitment. It means daily communication, honest vulnerability, and mutual investment. Don't settle for surface-level relationships. Find someone who will dig through the roof to bring you to Jesus, and be that person for someone else.

Day 4: Remember the Sabbath—Finding Rest in God

Reading: Exodus 20:8-11

Devotional: For years, Jason worked seven days a week, nursing hangovers and watching NASCAR instead of worshiping God. The Sabbath commandment isn't about legalistic rule-keeping; it's about recognizing our need for rest and worship. When we neglect the Sabbath, we're essentially saying, "I don't need God; I can sustain myself." But we can't. God designed us to need rhythms of work and rest, productivity and worship. Observing the Sabbath is an act of faith—trusting that God will provide even when we stop striving. It's also an act of worship, acknowledging that He is God and we are not. What does your Sunday look like? Is it centered on God or on recovering from Saturday? True rest isn't found in leisure alone, but in drawing near to the One who made us. Make space this week to genuinely rest in God's presence.

Day 5: When Jesus Saw Their Faith

Reading: Mark 2:1-12

Devotional: "When Jesus saw their faith..." Notice Jesus responded to the faith of the friends, not just the paralyzed man. Your faith can impact others' healing. Your prayers, your persistence, your willingness to carry someone to Jesus—it all matters. Jason's transformation began when someone invited him to lunch, when John prayed intentionally, when Steve preached with the Holy Spirit's power. Each person played a role in carrying him to Jesus. But also notice: the paralyzed man had to accept being carried. He had to let others help. Pride keeps us isolated; humility opens the door to community and healing. Are you willing to both carry and be carried? The Christian life requires both roles. Today, reach out to someone who needs carrying—and be honest with someone about where you need help. Faith is often expressed through community, not just individual belief.

As you complete this devotional journey, remember: God specializes in transforming broken, desperate people into powerful testimonies of His grace. Your story isn't over—it's just beginning.