

## 2026-05-10 5 Day Devotional

### 5-Day Devotional: The Cost of Love

#### Day 1: Love That Costs Everything

Reading: Luke 10:25-37

Devotional: The lawyer's question about eternal life reveals our deepest longing—to know we belong to God forever. Jesus answers not with religious ritual but with radical love. Notice how the Samaritan's compassion cost him time, resources, safety, and comfort. He didn't just feel pity; he acted sacrificially. True love always costs something. Your mother understood this—from the physical cost of carrying you to sleepless nights and endless sacrifice. God's love cost even more: His Son's life. Today, examine your love. Is it merely sentimental, or does it move you to costly action? Eternal life isn't earned through love, but genuine faith produces love that looks like Jesus—selfless, sacrificial, and willing to die daily to self-interest.

#### Day 2: Loving God With Everything

Reading: Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Mark 12:28-34

Devotional: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength." This isn't about loving when convenient or when you feel like it. Jesus didn't feel good hanging on the cross, yet He couldn't have screamed "I love you" any louder. Loving God with everything means bringing every thought under His lordship, directing every ounce of strength toward His purposes, engaging your whole mind in knowing Him, and surrendering your deepest affections. This isn't religious performance; it's passionate devotion. When you truly love God this way, something remarkable happens—you gain capacity to love the unlovable. Ask God today: What does loving You with my whole being actually look like in my daily decisions, relationships, and priorities?

#### Day 3: The Death That Brings Life

Reading: Luke 9:23-27; Romans 6:1-14

Devotional: To inherit eternal life, someone must die. Jesus died for you, but now you must die too. "Pick up your cross daily," Jesus said. The problem with American Christianity is we don't want to die—we want to stay in charge, make it all about us. But the gospel demands crucifixion of self. The Good Samaritan laid down his life, risking ambush for a stranger. He gained nothing but the joy of reflecting God's heart. When you die to selfishness, entitlement, and comfort-seeking, you discover the abundant life Jesus promised. It's paradoxical: lose your life to find it. Today, identify one area where you're clinging to control. What would dying to self look like there? True freedom comes through surrender, not self-preservation.

Day 4: Seeing With Compassion

Reading: Matthew 9:35-38; Colossians 3:12-17

Devotional: The priest saw and passed by. The Levite looked closely and walked away. The Samaritan saw and took pity—he put himself in the wounded man's place. That's compassion: feeling another's pain so deeply it moves you to action. We've become experts at looking away, making excuses, assuming someone else will help. But Jesus asks: Are you somebody? Compassion isn't natural; it flows from loving God completely. When you grasp how many sins Jesus has forgiven you from, loving difficult people becomes possible. Start your day praying: "God, don't let me miss where I can bless others on Your behalf." Then watch for the wounded along your path. They won't always look needy—sometimes they're hiding behind smiles. Ask God for eyes to see and a heart that can't pass by.

Day 5: Go And Do Likewise

Reading: James 2:14-26; 1 John 3:16-24

Devotional: Jesus ends the parable with a command, not a suggestion: "Go and do likewise." The lawyer knew the right answer intellectually, but

knowledge without action is worthless. Faith without works is dead. You can attend church, know Scripture, and still miss the kingdom if you never lay down your life for others. The Samaritan used what he had—oil, wine, his donkey, his money—without calculating return on investment. He helped with no cameras, no recognition, no guarantee of repayment. That's the gospel lived out. Today, stop waiting for the perfect opportunity or convenient moment. Someone around you is half-dead, stripped and beaten by life. What can you do with what you have? Don't just intend to help—act. Eternal life isn't just a future destination; it's a present reality demonstrated through selfless love.