

2026-05-24 5 Day Devotional

5-Day Devotional: Living with Christ as Lord and Savior

Day 1: The Question That Changes Everything

Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

Devotional: "Who do you say that I am?" This question cuts to the heart of our faith. Jesus isn't satisfied with secondhand knowledge or borrowed beliefs. He wants a personal answer from you. Peter's response came not from human wisdom but from divine revelation. Are you living with Jesus as merely a concept you've heard about, or have you encountered Him personally? Take inventory today: Is Christ your Savior only, providing fire insurance from hell? Or is He also your Lord, directing your daily decisions? The difference transforms everything. Stop relying on what you've heard from sermons or podcasts. Get into the secret place and let the Father reveal His Son to you personally. Your relationship with Christ cannot be built on someone else's experience.

Day 2: Denying Self and Taking Up Your Cross

Reading: Matthew 16:24-28

Devotional: Jesus gives three non-negotiable commands: deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Him. Notice these aren't suggestions or helpful tips—they're requirements for discipleship. Denying yourself means dethroning the idols you've elevated: your career, comfort, family, reputation, or financial security. Taking up your cross means accepting the difficult path of obedience even when it costs you everything. Following Him means staying close, learning His ways, and walking as He walked. What are you unwilling to surrender? That's probably your functional god. The American dream whispers that you can have Jesus and your selfish ambitions. But Christ asks a piercing question: "What good is it to gain the whole world yet forfeit your soul?" Stop manufacturing your own righteousness through behavior modification. True transformation comes through death to self.

Day 3: Lead Me and Guide Me

Reading: Psalm 31:1-8

Devotional: David understood the difference between being led and being guided. A leader sets the vision and destination—God wants you in His presence forever, worshiping Him. A guide provides the how and where—through Scripture, prayer, and Spirit-filled community. You cannot navigate the Christian life on your own strength or wisdom. When you cry out, "Lead and guide me," you're acknowledging complete dependence on God. He becomes your rock, your fortress, your refuge. Notice David's honesty: he admits distress, weakness, and enemies conspiring against him. This isn't a sanitized, Sunday-morning faith. It's raw, vulnerable trust in the midst of real spiritual warfare. Stop pretending you have it all together. Get intimate with brothers and sisters who can provide instructions and maps through the dangerous terrain ahead. You need both divine leadership and practical guidance.

Day 4: The New Command to Love

Reading: John 13:34-35; Matthew 22:1-14

Devotional: Jesus commands us to love one another as He loved us—not with shallow sentimentality, but with truth and grace. Christ's love called out sin while offering forgiveness. It confronted darkness while extending mercy. This kind of love makes disciples recognizable to the world. But many refuse the wedding invitation, too busy with fields and businesses to respond to the King. They receive the call but choose lesser things. Don't be speechless when the King asks why you came without proper wedding clothes. Read the invitation. Follow the instructions. RSVP with your whole life. The kingdom is filled with bad people made righteous by Christ's blood—but they showed up. They responded. They surrendered. Stop treating your relationship with Christ like a casual acquaintance. He's preparing a banquet and wants you there, but you must come on His terms, not yours.

Day 5: Doing Greater Works

Reading: John 14:8-14

Devotional: Jesus makes an astounding promise: those who believe in Him will do even greater works than He did. How? Because He went to the Father and sent the Holy Spirit to empower us. But notice the condition—these works must be done in His name, for His glory, to expand His kingdom. This isn't about asking for comfort, luxury, or selfish desires. God won't honor prayers for a Ford Raptor when people are perishing without the gospel. He will honor requests for courage, boldness, righteousness, and holiness to accomplish His purposes. Stop asking God to fund your American dream. Start asking Him to use you for His kingdom dream. The Spirit living in you is the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead. You have access to supernatural power—not for your convenience, but for His mission. What are you asking for in Jesus' name today?

Closing Reflection: This week, you've been confronted with the call to live with Christ as both Lord and Savior. It's time to move beyond surface-level Christianity. Get honest about your idols. Surrender your agenda. Take up your cross daily. Let the Spirit lead and guide you through Scripture and community. Love others with truth and grace. And do the works of the kingdom, not the works of self-promotion. The invitation stands: Come to the wedding banquet. But come on His terms.