

This is Us: Inclusive God

5-Day Devotional

Day 1: The Invitation to Be Real

John 4:7-18 (NIV)

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.” “I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

Devotion

The Samaritan woman at the well teaches us that transformation begins with honesty. When Jesus asked her to call her husband, He wasn’t testing her—He was inviting her to drop the mask. She could have deflected, lied, or walked away. Instead, she chose vulnerability: “I have no husband.” That moment of authenticity became her entry point to living water.

Where are you wearing a mask today? What part of your story are you hiding from God? Remember, Jesus already knows everything about you and still pursues you. He’s not shocked by your past or present. Your brokenness doesn’t disqualify you—it qualifies you for His grace. Take one step toward honesty today. Acknowledge one struggle, one weakness, one area where you need Him. That’s where transformation begins.

Day 2: Desperate Enough to Climb

Luke 19:1-6 (NIV)

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

Devotion

Zacchaeus was willing to look ridiculous to see Jesus. Short in stature, hated by his community, he still climbed that sycamore tree while people pointed and laughed. His desperation overcame his dignity. He didn't have his theology figured out or his life cleaned up—he just needed to see Jesus, even from a distance.

How desperate are you for Jesus? We often wait until we're “ready” or “worthy” before seeking Him. But transformation doesn't require perfection—it requires hunger. Zacchaeus's undignified climb caught Jesus's attention. What would it look like for you to pursue Jesus with that same urgency today? Maybe it's finally praying that honest prayer, reaching out for help, or simply showing up when it's uncomfortable. Welcome always precedes transformation. Climb the tree.

Day 3: The God Who Invites Himself Over

Revelation 3:20 — “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.”

Luke 19:5-7 — When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

Devotion

Jesus didn't wait for an invitation to Zacchaeus's house—He invited Himself. This wasn't a polite social obligation; Jesus genuinely wanted to share a meal with this hated tax collector. In that culture, eating together meant acceptance, solidarity, and relationship. Jesus wanted to be associated with an outcast.

This is the scandalous nature of grace: Jesus pursues those the world rejects. He's not waiting for you to clean up your life before He shows up. He's already knocking, already inviting Himself into your mess. The question isn't whether you're worthy of His presence—you're not, and neither am I. The question is: will you open the door? Will you welcome Him into the parts of your life you're most ashamed of? He's already chosen to sit at your table.

Day 4: Don't Close the Door

Romans 5:6-8 — You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 4:7-12 — Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Devotion

The crowd following Jesus was too busy being offended to join Him at Zacchaeus's house. They excluded themselves from experiencing grace because they were judging who deserved it. They wanted a God who validated their prejudices, not one who welcomed sinners.

How often do we do the same? We focus on others' worthiness instead of our own need. We worry about who God shouldn't accept rather than marveling that He accepts us. Paul reminds us to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling"—not someone else's. God rewards those who earnestly seek Him, not those who have everything figured out. Don't close the door that isn't yours to close. Instead of pointing fingers outward, look inward. Your spiritual journey is between you and Jesus. Let Him worry about everyone else.

Day 5: Who Are You in the Story?

John 21:15-22 —When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is going to betray you?”) When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?” Jesus answered, “It’s not your business. You follow me.”

Philippians 2:12-13 — Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Devotion

After the resurrection, Peter asked Jesus about John’s future: “What about him?” Jesus’s response was direct: “What is that to you? You follow me.” Peter wanted to deflect attention from his own calling by focusing on someone else’s journey.

In the story of Zacchaeus, who are you? Are you Zacchaeus—real, honest, spiritually hungry, climbing the tree to see Jesus? Or are you the crowd—standing at a distance, judging who deserves grace, excluding yourself from the table because you’re offended by who else is invited? The good news is that we’re all the women at the well, all Zacchaeus—broken people in need of living water. Jesus draws close to those who acknowledge their need. As Jesus invited himself to Zacchaeus’ house for dinner, Jesus invites you to new life free of judgment. Judgment of self and the judgment of others. He is waiting for your reply.