The End of the Beginning: Am I Good Enough?

5-Day Devotional

Day 1: You Are Not an Orphan

Reading: John 14:15-18 — Jesus promises that he will not leave his followers without help or comfort, but will send the Holy Spirit to be with them always.

> *"If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.]*

Devotional: One of the deepest fears a person can carry is the fear of being abandoned. Jesus knew this about us. Before he left his disciples, he made a promise that echoes across every generation of believers: I will not leave you as orphans. That promise belongs to you today. Whatever transition, uncertainty, or question you are walking through right now, you are not navigating it alone. The Spirit of God has been sent specifically to guide you, teach you, and remind you of everything Jesus has spoken. You do not have to earn the presence of God. It has already been given. Rest in that today.

Reflection: Where in your life have you been living as though God has already left the room? What would it look like to trust his presence there today?

Day 2: What Is Filling Your Heart?

Reading: Matthew 12:33-37 — Jesus teaches that what a person says and does flows from what is already stored within them, and that words reveal the true condition of the heart.

> *"Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."*

Devotional: Jesus is not interested in surface behavior. He goes straight to the source. He teaches that our words and actions are not random — they are the overflow of whatever we have been storing in our hearts and minds. This is not meant to condemn you. It is meant to wake you up. The Spirit does not work by osmosis. Growth requires intentional input. What are you feeding yourself throughout the week? What voices, images, and ideas are you allowing to settle into your inner life? The good news is that what has been stored can be replaced. Today is a good day to start.

Reflection: Take an honest inventory of what you have been filling your mind with this week. What needs to be displaced, and what could you replace it with?

Day 3: The Spirit Leads, But Will You Drink?

Reading: Psalm 23:1-3 — The psalmist describes God as a shepherd who leads his people to rest, restoration, and the right paths for living.

> *The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.*

Devotional: The Holy Spirit is not passive. He is actively leading you toward the places where your soul can be restored and your heart can be renewed. He leads you to still waters, to living waters, to the Word, to community, to worship. But as the sermon rightly pointed out, you can be led to water and still refuse to drink. The Spirit will not force growth upon you. He will guide, prompt, and open doors — but you must choose to walk through them. Willpower alone will never be enough, but surrendered cooperation with the Spirit is a different thing entirely. Follow the lead today.

Reflection: Is there a prompting from the Spirit you have been ignoring or delaying? What is one step you can take today to follow that leading?

Day 4: Righteousness Is a Gift, Not a Grade

Reading: Romans 1:16-17 — Paul declares that in the gospel, a righteousness from God is revealed — a righteousness that comes through faith, from first to last.

> *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*

Devotional: Martin Luther nearly broke under the weight of trying to be good enough. He spent hours in confession, terrified that he had already crossed a line with God. Then the Spirit opened his eyes to the truth in this passage: righteousness is not a standard to be met. It is a gift to be received. God is not holding a scorecard over your life, waiting for you to reach an acceptable level before he steps in. He has already stepped in, through Christ. The right standing you have been striving for has already been given to those who live by faith. You do not have to earn what has already been granted.

Reflection: In what areas of your spiritual life have you been striving to earn what God has already freely given? How does receiving righteousness as a gift change the way you relate to God today?

Day 5: Abide and Bear Fruit

Reading: John 15:1-5 — Jesus describes himself as the vine and his followers as the branches, making clear that fruitful living flows from remaining closely connected to him, and that apart from him nothing lasting can be produced.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. [3] You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Devotional: The question was never how good are you. The question is how great is our God. Jesus does not ask you to produce enough fruit to qualify for his presence. He asks you to remain in him, and the fruit will follow. The branch does not strain to grow grapes. It simply stays connected to the vine. That is the whole of it. You were never designed to manufacture goodness on your own. You were designed to abide. When you stay close to Jesus — through prayer, Scripture, worship, and community — his life flows through you and produces what you could never produce alone. Stay close. That is enough.

Reflection: What does abiding in Christ look like practically in your daily life? Identify one habit or rhythm you can begin this week that keeps you connected to the vine.