

What Does It Mean to be Holy and a Child of God?

5-Day Devotional

Day 1: Holy Ground Beneath Ordinary Feet

Reading: Exodus 3:1-6

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up." When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

Devotional:

Moses was not in a cathedral. He was not surrounded by religious leaders or sacred objects. He was following sheep through a wilderness, carrying the weight of a broken past, certain that his best days were behind him. And yet God showed up there, in the ordinary, and declared the ground holy. Holiness in Scripture is not a reward for the righteous. It is a gift extended to the weary. Whatever wilderness you are walking through today, God is present in it. The invitation is not to clean yourself up before approaching. The invitation is simply to stop, notice, and draw near.

Reflection Questions:

- Where in your ordinary, everyday life might God be trying to get your attention right now?
- What would it mean for you to remove your sandals, to set aside distraction and be fully present before God today?

Practical Application: Set aside five minutes of silence today with no phone, no music, and no agenda. Simply sit and acknowledge that wherever you are, you are on holy ground.

Day 2: Come to Me, All Who Are Weary

Reading: Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Devotional:

The disciples were tired. They were sharing good news in a world that often did not want to hear it. They were being judged by the very people who claimed to know God best. And into that exhaustion, Jesus spoke one of the most tender invitations in all of Scripture. He did not say come to me when you have it together. He did not say come when you have figured out your faith. He said come as you are, weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. The yoke Jesus offers is not a life without challenge. It is a life where you no longer carry the weight alone.

Reflection Questions:

- What burdens are you currently carrying that you have not yet brought to Jesus?
- How does the image of a yoke, two walking together rather than one struggling alone, change the way you think about your relationship with God?

Practical Application: Write down one burden you have been carrying on your own. Pray over it specifically today, releasing it into God's hands and asking for the rest that Jesus promises.

Day 3: Revealed to the Childlike Heart

Reading: Matthew 11:25-27

At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

Devotional:

There is a difference between being childlike and being childish. Childishness is self-centered and demanding. Childlike faith is something far more beautiful. It is the posture of someone who trusts completely, who does not need to understand every detail before moving forward, who can stand in front of a rainbow and simply be amazed. Jesus praises God specifically for this, that the kingdom is not unlocked by intellectual achievement or religious status. It is entered through humility and trust. The wisest thing any of us can do is admit that we do not have it all figured out and trust the One who does.

Reflection Questions:

- In what areas of your life are you trying to figure everything out on your own rather than trusting God?
- What would it look like to approach your faith with more wonder and less need for control?

Practical Application: Today, spend time in nature or in a quiet place and practice simply noticing beauty without analyzing it. Let it be a spiritual exercise in wonder and trust.

Day 4: Holiness Is Meant to Be Shared

Reading: Matthew 12:1-13

At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath." He answered, "Haven't you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread—which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. Or haven't you read in the Law that the priests on Sabbath duty in the temple desecrate the Sabbath and yet are innocent? I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent. For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to bring charges against Jesus, they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" He said to them, "If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other.

Devotional:

The religious leaders of Jesus' day had turned holiness into a wall. Keep the unclean out. Stay separate. Protect the sacred from contamination. But Jesus did the opposite. He walked toward the sick, the outcast, and the sinner. And he did not become less holy for it. He made those around him more whole. This is the nature of God's holiness. It is not fragile. It does not need our protection. It is a light that shines into darkness without being extinguished by it. We are not called to guard God's holiness from the world. We are called to carry it there.

Reflection Questions:

- Is there someone in your life you have been avoiding because you fear their circumstances or choices might somehow diminish your faith?
- How might God be calling you to bring grace and presence into a difficult or uncomfortable situation?

Practical Application: Reach out today to someone who may feel on the outside, whether of your church, your family, or your community. Offer a word of encouragement or simply your presence.

Day 5: Every Ending Holds a New Beginning

Reading: Lamentations 3:22-23 Romans 8:28

*Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.*

Romans 8:28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Devotional:

Moses thought his story was over. He had failed, run away, and spent forty years in a wilderness waiting to disappear. Then a bush caught fire and everything changed. God is in the business of new beginnings, but they almost always come disguised as endings. The job that closes. The relationship that ends. The season that feels like it is only loss. These are the very places where God tends to show up with a burning bush and say, I am not finished with you. The mercies of God are new every morning. Not every year, not every season, every morning. Whatever you are letting go of today, God is already preparing what comes next.

Reflection Questions:

- What ending in your life right now might actually be the beginning of something God is preparing for you?
- How does the promise that God works all things together for good change the way you face uncertainty?

Practical Application: Journal about one ending you have experienced in the past year. Then write a prayer asking God to open your eyes to the new beginning that may already be unfolding from that place of loss.

Closing Encouragement

Throughout this week, return to the central image of this sermon: bare feet on holy ground. You do not need to be perfect to stand in God's presence. You do not need to have all the answers to move forward in faith. You are invited, just as you are, to come to the One who is gentle and humble in heart, who promises rest, and who makes all things new. The ground beneath your feet, wherever you stand, is holy.