



5-Day Devotional: Jesus Plus Nothing Equals Freedom

Day 1: The Pure Gospel

Reading: Galatians 1:1-9

Devotional: Paul opens his letter with urgency and passion—the gospel cannot be altered. In a world constantly offering spiritual shortcuts and additions to faith, we must return to the simplicity of Christ crucified. The enemy loves to complicate what Jesus made simple: salvation through faith alone.

Today, examine your own faith. Have you added requirements to the gospel? Performance? Approval? Religious activity? Jesus plus nothing equals freedom. Not Jesus plus your good behavior, not Jesus plus human approval, not Jesus plus anything. When we try to improve on the gospel, we actually diminish its power. The cross is sufficient. His blood is enough. Your freedom is found in believing this truth, not in adding to it.

Day 2: Encountering Christ, Not Just Experiencing Him

Reading: Genesis 32:22-31; Acts 9:1-19

Devotional: Jacob wrestled with God and left limping—forever changed. Paul met Jesus on the Damascus road and was never the same. These weren't just emotional experiences; they were life-altering encounters. There's a difference between experiencing Jesus in a church service and encountering Him in a way that transforms your walk. Experiences fade, but encounters leave permanent marks. Jacob's limp was evidence of his meeting with God. Paul's complete turnaround testified to Christ's power.

Today, ask yourself: have I truly encountered Jesus, or have I just had religious experiences? A genuine encounter with Christ changes how you walk, talk, think, and love. It's not about feeling good on Sunday; it's about being transformed Monday through Saturday. Seek an encounter that leaves you permanently changed.

Day 3: The Cost of Following Jesus

Reading: Luke 14:25-33; Matthew 10:34-39

Devotional: Jesus never promised comfort—He promised a cross. Following Christ costs something. It may cost relationships, reputation, comfort, or control. American Christianity often presents a sanitized gospel that requires nothing, but Jesus said to count the cost. He didn't sugarcoat discipleship. When we preach a gospel without sacrifice, we create converts without conviction. True freedom in Christ begins when we die to ourselves—our will, our way, our identity apart from Him. This isn't about earning salvation; it's about the natural response to encountering the One who gave everything for us.

Today, consider what following Jesus has cost you. If the answer is "nothing," perhaps you haven't fully surrendered. The gospel is free, but discipleship is costly. Jesus is worth it all.

Day 4: Unashamed of the Gospel

Reading: Romans 1:16-17; 2 Timothy 1:8-12

Devotional: Paul declared he was not ashamed of the gospel—it is the power of God for salvation. In our culture of tolerance and political correctness, boldly proclaiming Jesus as the only way seems offensive. Yet truth spoken in love is never wrong. We've become more concerned with our reputation than with people's eternity. We fear rejection more than we fear leaving souls in darkness. Jesus said if we deny Him before men, He will deny us before the Father. That's sobering.

Today, ask God for holy boldness. Not arrogance or condemnation, but courage rooted in love. People are dying without Christ—literally. Your silence isn't kindness; it's withholding the cure. You don't need to be a professional preacher; you just need to share what Jesus has done for you. Be unashamed.

Day 5: Called to Preach

Reading: Romans 10:13-17; Matthew 28:18-20

Devotional: "How can they hear without a preacher?" Paul asks. You might think, "I'm not a preacher!" But if you follow Jesus, you are. We've mistakenly believed evangelism is the pastor's job, done only on Sundays. But the Great Commission was given to all believers. Every Christian is called to preach—to share the good news. Our communities don't need more government programs; they need the church to be the church. They need Jesus. The addict needs Jesus. The broken family needs Jesus. The lost teenager needs Jesus. And God has chosen to use you to deliver that message. You are His ambassador, His messenger, His preacher. It's not about having all the answers or

perfect theology; it's about sharing your testimony and pointing others to Christ.

**Today, ask God for one divine appointment—one person who needs to hear about Jesus.
Then be faithful to speak.**