

October 5-9, 2026 Edition

Following
The Year_(s) Of Jesus Part 248

What Are You Known For?

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When you read the Bible ask yourself if there's anything you're reading where God is speaking to you personally... anything that you need to start applying in your own life. Then try to reflect on what you read... what you heard from God throughout the day and we know you'll be blessed.

*** These are EXTREMELY rough drafts so if you see typos... well yuo knew the rest ;D) These are essentially the ramblings of thoughts running through Ed or Judy's mind the week before Ed teaches a lesson on these concepts. They are pretty much how Ed gets ready for the weekends. They are not necessarily coherent so if they don't make much sense... sorry about that.

**** Also these devotionals are the product of both Judy & Ed's experiences and education. Figuring out which are from Judy and which are from Ed (sometimes both are contained in a single day) is half the fun.

You can also get these devotionals on Riverside's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/EagleRiverside). You don't have to have a FB account to read them but if you do have an account if you "like" the Riverside page and click the box to get updates the devos will show up on your wall every weekday (along with other news and event updates).

Monday Reflection:

It's Monday, so we're going to go easy on you. Let's start today by playing a little game. I'm going to name someone famous, and you're going to say what they're known for.

Kurt Russell
Serena Williams
Lauren Daigle

Okay - that wasn't too hard, right? If you don't know the answers - or just haven't had enough coffee, no worries - I'll put the answers at the end of today's devotional. It's pretty easy for us to figure out what made these guys famous. But what about you? What's that thing that people know you for? Your humor? Your singing voice? Your sense of style? Everyone has their thing. For me (this is Aniela speaking/typing), it was my love of bacon.

I had bacon-kitchen towels, bacon-lollypops, bacon bubble gum, bacon post-it notes, a bacon coffee mug that said "make bacon, not war," bacon candy canes, bacon lip balm, bacon Band-Aids... and the list goes on.

My bacon collection got so bad that I had to set up a little table in my office to hold all my bacon-related things. One day, a coworker walked in and asked... "You get anything new for your bacon altar?" And that's when I knew... bacon had become my identity. It was the thing people thought of when they thought of me. Yes, they knew I was a Christian, too. But this one little quirk of liking bacon had gotten me notoriety. "You must not have any other god but me.

4 "You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. 5 You must not bow down to them or worship them... Exodus 20:3-6 (NLT)

Now, I was not bowing down to bacon... but it had become what I was known for. That's my challenge for you today: think about how you present yourself to the world. Think about what you're known for. And then, consider how you feel about that.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for making us all unique. We love that You made us all individuals with our own likes and dislikes. Give us eyes to see what others see when they see us. Help us live our lives more like Jesus. Amen.

The answers - as promised:
Kurt Russell (actor)
Serena Williams (tennis player)
Lauren Daigle (Christian singer)

Tuesday Reflection:

Yesterday, we considered what we are known for. Today, let's dig a little deeper. Whether it's your love of bacon or your amazing quilting abilities, we all have something we're known for. Don't believe me? Think about how you introduce yourself. Typically, it's, "Hi, my name is..." And then what's the next question? "What do you do for a living?" We have all these identifiers we use to describe ourselves. And that we use to tell others who we are.

Imagine what that could look like on a broader scale. What if you were known for being kind? Or being generous? Or being smart? In the Old Testament, David's son, Solomon, was known for his wisdom. He writes in Proverbs:

The wise are known for their understanding, and pleasant words are persuasive. Proverbs
16:21 NLT

Now, one might argue that Solomon could have used that same wisdom to not have 700 wives and concubines... but that's neither here nor there.

He writes that wise people are known for their understanding... and that they use pleasant words to get the job done. Perhaps we can learn from that, too.

Today, let that be your challenge. What do you want to be known for? At the end of the day - at the end of your life - what do you want people to remember you for? What is one thing you can do today to bring yourself closer to living the kind of life you want to be remembered for?

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for creating us in ways that honor You. Show us what we can do today to live a life that is genuine to who we are, who we want to be, and who You call us to be. It's in Your name we pray, Amen.

Wednesday Reflection:

So far this week, you've thought about what you're known for and questioned if that's what you want to be known for. Now, we're going to add something to your identity: love. This one's easy if you're known for your Mother Teresa-like qualities of caring for others. It's not so easy if you're known for being a bit like Oscar the Grouch.

Everyone - yep, everybody - can benefit from a little more love. Whatever we do in this world - whatever label we wear, we can do it with love. That's Jesus' big challenge for all of us.

34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34-35 NIV

Did you catch that? "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Not by how great a job you do at work or how many cookies you made for the bake sale. It's by your love for others. Oof. That one can be rather convicting.

So, are you doing what you do - and being who you are - with love in the mix? What would it take for you to add the love? That's today's challenge: brainstorm ways you can be you - with a little heaping of love added in.

Prayer:

Holy Spirit, fill us with the kind of love and peace that surpasses all understanding. Help us respect others and treat them with kindness. Show us one way to do that today. Amen.

Thursday Reflection:

Funerals and memorials are hard for so many reasons. If you've lost someone, you know the many feelings associated with attending a service. You might feel like you have to put on a brave face. You might feel numb. And you might find yourself surprised by laughing at something someone has shared about the person you lost.

Memorials and funerals are for celebrating and remembering the life of a person. What a challenge it is to sum up someone's life in an hour! How do you describe the impact of one person in such a short amount of time?

In the Bible, we read plenty of stories of people who had great impacts - long legacies. We read about one man whom God liked so much that He just snatched him up.

By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: "He could not be found, because God had taken him away." For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. Hebrews 11:5 NIV

That's quite a legacy, to be "one who pleased God!" What do you want your legacy to be like? Today, spend some time thinking about how you want to be remembered when the time comes.

Pray: Jesus, I want to be remembered as "one who pleased God." Show me what that looks like in my life. Amen.

Friday Reflection:

This week, we've done some soul-searching to determine what we're known for. And what we want to be known for when our time comes. So, how far off from that legacy are you?

For many of us... We might not be where we want to be. Today, let's dig into what we can do to change that. It starts with love.

Ephesians 5:1-2: "Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us." (NIV)

When we look to Jesus for how to live, we can get a good grip on our True North. What do you know about Jesus? He loved. He accepted. He forgave. I try to ask myself: Am I doing that?

If you're anything like me, you might be cringing a bit thinking about the behavior of your last day when you hold it up to Jesus for comparison. Good thing He doesn't give up on us. We're all just taking the next step He lays out for us.

If you're looking at your day and thinking, "Well, I messed that up," - stop. Just take a minute and recalibrate. Where do you want to be headed? In a life that models the love of Jesus. Then, pivot. Throw up your hands and say, "Well, I messed that up," and then change directions. Ask God for help.

You're not stuck. If you want to make a change to who you are - what you're known for - and what your legacy will be, start small. Just do one thing differently. It might start with an apology. It might start with love. It definitely starts with Jesus.

Prayer: Jesus - I don't know what my legacy will be. I don't even know who You want me to be, besides someone who follows You. Help me catch myself when I go off-course. Help me pivot back to You. Amen.