

QFMC 5 Day Devotional

Week of August 9, 2026 by Ryan Massey

Based on the Sermon on the Mount Series

Day 1: The Authority of the King

Reading: Matthew 7:24-29 -- Jesus concludes his sermon by presenting two builders and two foundations, and the crowds respond with amazement at his authority.

Devotional: Jesus does not speak as someone relaying a message from a higher power. He speaks as the authority himself. This is the distinction that separates him from every teacher, leader, or influencer who has ever commanded an audience. When we hear his words, we are not receiving the opinion of a wise sage. We are receiving the declaration of a king. The question worth sitting with today is not whether his teaching is impressive, but whether our lives are ordered under his authority. Admiration is not the same as submission. Where today do you need to move from admiring Jesus to actually obeying him?

Day 2: Building on the Rock

Reading: Luke 6:46-49 -- Luke's parallel account of the two builders, where Jesus asks why people call him Lord but do not do what he says.

Devotional: Every person is building a life on something. Career, reputation, relationships, financial security, and personal identity all compete to serve as the foundation beneath our feet. Jesus does not suggest that these things are worthless, but he does warn that none of them will hold when the storm arrives. The rock is not a feeling or a belief system. It is active, daily obedience to the words of Jesus, rooted in a living relationship with him. Consider what your daily decisions reveal about the foundation you are actually building on, not the one you intend to build on.

Day 3: Hearing and Doing

Reading: James 1:22-25 -- James warns against being only a hearer of the word and not a doer, comparing the forgetful hearer to someone who looks in a mirror and immediately forgets what they saw.

Devotional: Church attendance, biblical knowledge, and theological agreement are not the same as obedience. James makes this uncomfortably clear. It is entirely possible to hear the words of Jesus week after week, nod in agreement, and walk away unchanged. The Sermon on the Mount confronts the interior condition of the human heart, not just outward behavior. Real transformation begins when we stop managing our image and allow the word of God to reveal what is actually happening beneath the surface. What has God's word shown you about yourself recently that you have been slow to act on?

Day 4: Grace as the Ground of Obedience

Reading: Matthew 5:3-6 -- Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount with the Beatitudes, beginning with those who are poor in spirit, declaring that the kingdom of heaven belongs to those who recognize their utter dependence on God.

Devotional: Obedience to Jesus is not the ladder we climb to earn his love. It is the response of those who have already received it. The Sermon on the Mount does not begin with a performance checklist. It begins with an acknowledgment of need. Those who are poor in spirit, who recognize they have nothing to offer God apart from their own emptiness, are the very ones to whom the kingdom belongs. This is the grace that makes obedience possible. We do not obey to be accepted. We obey because we are accepted. Rest today in that distinction and let it reorder your motivation.

Day 5: The Storm Will Come

Reading: Romans 8:35-39 -- Paul declares that nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, even in the face of tribulation, distress, and hardship.

Devotional: Jesus does not promise the wise builder a storm-free life. The rain falls, the floods rise, and the wind slams against both houses equally. Following Jesus does not exempt anyone from suffering, loss, or hardship. What it does provide is a foundation that cannot be moved. When the storms of life arrive, and they will, they do not have the final word over a life built on Jesus. His love, declared in Romans 8, is the bedrock beneath every trial. The storm reveals what ordinary appearances can hide. Let today's difficulties press you deeper into the one foundation that will not shift.