

QFMC 5 Day Devotional

Week of June 21, 2026 by Ed Burns

Living for an Audience of One

Day 1: The Father Who Sees in Secret

Reading: Matthew 6:1-4

Devotional: Jesus begins His teaching with a profound truth: God sees what is done in secret and rewards accordingly. In a world obsessed with social media validation and public recognition, this is countercultural wisdom. When you give, serve, or sacrifice without announcement, you're working for the only audience that truly matters—your Heavenly Father. The applause of people is fleeting; God's approval is eternal. Today, consider one act of kindness you can do anonymously. Perhaps pay for someone's coffee without them knowing, or serve in a way that goes unnoticed. Remember, God isn't treading water while you serve—He's watching with delight, ready to reward what the world never sees.

Day 2: Prayer as Intimate Conversation

Reading: Matthew 6:5-8; Philippians 4:6-7

Devotional: Jesus invites us into secret prayer—not performance prayer, but intimate conversation with our Father. God doesn't need attention-getting devices or eloquent speeches; He desires authentic relationship. When you close your door and pray, you're not just going through religious motions—you're communing with the God who created the universe and knows your name. Paul reminds us to "pray about everything" and promises peace that transcends understanding. What are you worrying about today instead of praying about? God is listening right now, not to judge your words, but to hear your heart. Replace one worry session today with a prayer conversation. Tell God exactly how you feel, what you need, and watch Him respond with His incomprehensible peace.

Day 3: Fasting and Spiritual Discipline

Reading: Matthew 6:16-18; Isaiah 58:6-9

Devotional: Fasting isn't about impressing others with our spirituality—it's about creating space for God. When we voluntarily give up something (food, entertainment, social media), our bodies become spiritual alarm clocks, reminding us something is missing and redirecting our attention

to God. Isaiah reveals that true fasting breaks chains and brings God's light into darkness. What habit or comfort could you temporarily surrender to draw closer to God? Perhaps it's not food but scrolling, Netflix, or constant busyness. The discipline isn't punishment; it's positioning yourself to hear God's voice more clearly. Your Father sees this secret sacrifice and promises to reward you with His presence, which is infinitely more satisfying than any temporary pleasure you've released.

Day 4: The Kingdom Law of Compensation

Reading: Colossians 3:17, 23-24; Galatians 1:10

Devotional: Paul presents a revolutionary principle: whatever you do, do it for the Lord, not for human approval. You receive your paycheck from whoever you're working for. If you live to please people, their applause is your only reward—and it's never enough. But when you serve Christ, even in mundane tasks, you're storing up eternal rewards. Ask yourself today: "Who am I trying to please?" Are you attending church to avoid embarrassment? Serving to gain recognition? Giving to get your name recorded? God looks past your actions into your motives. He rewards the secret sacrifices, the unnoticed faithfulness, the obedience no one applauds. Shift your focus from earthly approval to heavenly affirmation. Live for the "well done" that matters eternally.

Day 5: Communion—Remembering Your Reward

Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 15:9-17

Devotional: The ultimate proof that God sees and rewards us is found in communion. While we were still sinners—in secret rebellion—Christ died for us. He saw our desperate need and rewarded us with salvation we didn't earn. Every time we take communion, we remember that Jesus gave His body and blood not for show, but in genuine love. This wasn't performance; this was sacrifice. As you reflect on Christ's death today, remember that the Father who watched His Son suffer for you is the same Father who sees your secret prayers, hidden generosity, and private worship. He has already given you the greatest reward—Himself. Now live in response to that overwhelming love, practicing righteousness not for applause, but as worship to the One who sees, knows, and rewards abundantly.