



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Sermon: Bringing In The Harvest

SERIES: DIVINE PURPOSE | SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS SMITH | 2/8/2026 | PAGE 1 OF 5

Day 1: When Joy Gets Stolen

Devotional: Have you ever noticed how gradually joy can slip away from your life? One day you're walking with a spring in your step, and then suddenly you realize you feel empty inside. Life has a way of chipping away at our happiness through disappointments, stress, and daily struggles. But here's the beautiful truth: our joy doesn't have to remain stolen. When we find ourselves in seasons of emptiness, we have a powerful weapon at our disposal - thanksgiving and praise. It might seem counterintuitive to praise God when circumstances are difficult, but this is exactly when our worship becomes most powerful. Gratitude shifts our focus from what's wrong to who God is. It reminds us of His faithfulness, His love, and His promises that never fail. Think about the last time you felt truly joyful. Chances are, it wasn't because everything in your life was perfect. Joy isn't dependent on circumstances; it's rooted in our relationship with God. When we choose to give thanks in spite of our situation, we open our hearts to receive God's joy again. This isn't about pretending everything is fine or putting on a fake smile. It's about acknowledging that God is bigger than our problems and worthy of our praise regardless of what we're facing. Today, you have the opportunity to reclaim what's been stolen. Your joy doesn't have to remain in the enemy's hands. Through intentional gratitude and worship, you can experience the restoration of joy that only comes from the Lord.

Bible Verse: 'Therefore do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.' - Matthew 6:31-34

Reflection Question: What specific area of your life has been robbed of joy, and how can you begin to reclaim it through intentional thanksgiving and praise today?

Quote: When it comes to stealing Satan, there's times a when he embezzles our joy. He chips away until all of a sudden we notice we're empty.

Prayer: Lord, I confess that I've allowed circumstances to steal my joy. Help me to choose gratitude over complaint and praise over worry. Restore the joy of my salvation and remind me that my happiness is found in You, not in my circumstances. Fill my heart with Your joy today. Amen.

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Day 2: Seeing Through God's Eyes

Devotional: When you look at the world around you, what do you see? If you're like most people, you probably notice the problems first - the division, the moral decline, the brokenness that seems to be everywhere. It's easy to become discouraged when we focus solely on what's wrong with our society. But God has a completely different perspective. While we see chaos and decline, God sees opportunity. He looks at the same broken world and sees a harvest field that's ripe and ready. This isn't naive optimism; it's divine perspective. God sees beyond the surface problems to the hearts of people who are desperately searching for hope, meaning, and love. He sees individuals who are ready to receive His grace if someone would just reach out to them. This shift in perspective changes everything about how we approach our daily lives. Instead of walking through our communities with discouragement, we can walk with anticipation. That coworker who seems difficult might be someone God is preparing to encounter His love. That neighbor who keeps to themselves might be carrying burdens they don't know how to share. The person serving your coffee might be one conversation away from discovering their purpose. When we begin to see people through God's eyes, we stop viewing them as problems to avoid and start seeing them as opportunities to demonstrate His love. This perspective transforms not only how we treat others but how we feel about our role in God's kingdom. We're not just surviving in a broken world; we're participating in God's harvest.

Bible Verse: 'Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.'" - Matthew 9:37-38

Reflection Question: How might your interactions with difficult or distant people change if you truly believed God was preparing their hearts to receive His love?

Quote: And whenever God looks at this world and he sees these people, and we'll all testify, we can talk about how such a mess that things are, but God sees this world. He sees us as people, the people of this world. He sees a crop ready for harvest because he is the answer.

Prayer: Father, help me to see people the way You see them. Give me Your heart of compassion for those around me. Open my eyes to the harvest opportunities in my daily life, and make me sensitive to how You want to use me to reach others. Amen.

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Day 3: Moved by Compassion

Devotional: Compassion is more than just feeling sorry for someone. True compassion moves us to action. When Jesus saw the crowds of people, He wasn't just emotionally touched - He was moved with compassion that compelled Him to do something about their condition. They were weary, scattered, and without direction, like sheep wandering without a shepherd to guide and protect them. In our world today, people are carrying incredibly heavy burdens. Anxiety levels are at an all-time high across every age group. From preschoolers to senior citizens, people are struggling with overwhelming stress, loss, abuse, and circumstances beyond their control. They're looking for someone who cares enough to notice their pain and offer genuine help. The question we must ask ourselves is this: Do we love people enough to make sacrifices for their wellbeing? Are we willing to step out of our comfort zones, risk embarrassment, or face rejection if it means someone might find hope? Jesus didn't stay in the comfortable religious centers where everything was familiar and safe. He went to where the people were - the broken, the rejected, the ones society had written off. Sometimes our own reservoir of compassion runs low. We get tired, discouraged, or overwhelmed by the needs around us. But here's the beautiful truth: Jesus' compassion never runs dry. When we feel empty, we can draw from His endless supply of love and mercy. His heart still breaks for the lost and hurting, and He wants to express that compassion through us.

Bible Verse: 'But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.' - Matthew 9:36

Reflection Question: What specific sacrifice might God be calling you to make in order to show His love to someone who is weary and scattered in your life?

Quote: But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion for them because they were weary and scattered like sheep, having no shepherd.

Prayer: Jesus, fill me with Your compassion for the people around me. Help me to see beyond my own comfort and convenience to the needs of others. Give me courage to step out of my comfort zone and be Your hands and feet to those who are hurting. Amen.

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Day 4: Divine Appointments Await

Devotional: Have you ever had an encounter that seemed too perfectly timed to be coincidental? Maybe you ran into exactly the right person at exactly the right moment, or found yourself in a conversation that felt orchestrated by something bigger than chance. These moments aren't accidents - they're divine appointments arranged by God Himself. Jesus understood this principle perfectly. His encounter with the woman at the well wasn't random; He knew she was coming. He positioned Himself to be available for that life-changing conversation. When we get serious about souls - when we genuinely care about seeing our neighbors, coworkers, and everyone we encounter come to know God's love - we begin to recognize these divine appointments in our own lives. The beautiful truth is that God is already working in the hearts of people around us. He's preparing them for encounters with His love, and He wants to use us as part of that process. But we have to be paying attention. We need to be sensitive to His leading and willing to step into conversations and situations that might feel uncomfortable or unfamiliar. This doesn't mean we need to become pushy or manipulative. It means we live with expectancy, knowing that God is orchestrating opportunities for us to demonstrate His love and share His hope. When we align ourselves with God's heart for the harvest, we'll find ourselves in the right place at the right time more often than we ever imagined possible. Every day holds the potential for divine appointments. The question is: Are we ready to recognize them and step into them when they come?

Bible Verse: 'I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.' - John 10:14

Reflection Question: Looking back at your recent interactions, can you identify a moment that might have been a divine appointment you either embraced or missed?

Quote: Whenever we get serious about souls, when we get serious about seeing our neighbors saved and our co workers or just whoever we come in contact, let me tell you something. There'll be some divine appointments.

Prayer: Lord, make me sensitive to the divine appointments You arrange in my life. Help me to be available and willing to step into conversations and situations where You want to use me. Give me wisdom to recognize Your leading and courage to follow it. Amen.

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Day 5: The Urgency of Today

Devotional: Farmers understand timing in a way that most of us don't. They know that harvest season is both an opportunity and a deadline. Wait too long, and a storm can destroy an entire crop in a matter of hours. The window for gathering the harvest is real, and it's limited. This agricultural reality carries profound spiritual implications for how we approach sharing God's love with others. The harvest fields around us - the people in our communities, workplaces, and families - are weather-sensitive too. Life circumstances, hardened hearts, and missed opportunities can close doors that might never open again. Today someone might be open to hearing about God's love, but tomorrow their heart might be hardened by disappointment or distracted by other pursuits. This urgency isn't meant to create panic or pressure, but rather to inspire intentional action. When we truly grasp the reality of eternity - both the permanence of hell and the glory of heaven - it changes how we prioritize our time and energy. Every conversation becomes an opportunity. Every relationship carries eternal significance. The encouraging truth is that no sin is too great for God's forgiveness. No person is beyond His reach. No situation is too complicated for His grace to transform. But time is a factor. People need to hear this good news while their hearts are still open to receive it. Today is the day of salvation. Today is when we have the opportunity to be part of God's harvest. Tomorrow's opportunities are not guaranteed, but today's are right in front of us.

Bible Verse: 'And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.' - Hebrews 10:24-25

Reflection Question: If you knew that someone in your life might not have another opportunity to hear about God's love, how would that change your approach to your next conversation with them?

Quote: Today's the day. Like that harvest. Those fields right there, they're very weather sensitive. A hard storm will put them flat on the ground where they cannot be gathered up in a day's time.

Prayer: Father, help me to understand the urgency of the harvest without becoming anxious or pushy. Give me wisdom to recognize open doors and courage to walk through them. Use me today to plant seeds, water growth, or gather the harvest according to Your perfect timing. Amen.

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