

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: The One God Sees

Devotional

There is a man with no name and a beggar named Lazarus. That detail alone should stop us in our tracks. In a world that measures worth by status, influence, and wealth, Jesus flips the script entirely. The one the world ignored, God knew by name. Lazarus means "the one whom God helps," and that is exactly what happened. God saw Him.

It is easy to assume that visibility equals value. The wealthy man had everything that culture said mattered. And yet, in eternity, he is the forgotten one. Lazarus, covered in sores and overlooked by everyone around him, was seen, known, and carried to Abraham's side.

This is not just a story about two men. It is a mirror held up to each of us. We live in a world that celebrates the prominent and passes over the forgotten. But God's economy works differently. He notices the ones sitting at the gate. He knows the names of those the rest of us walk past.

For those of us shaped by Reformed theology, this is deeply encouraging. Our God is sovereign, and His sovereignty extends to the suffering. No one falls outside His sight. Not one person is too broken, too invisible, or too forgotten to be known by Him.

You are seen by that same God. And so is every Lazarus around you.

Bible Verse

'The Lord looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.' - Psalm 14:2 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

If God sees and names the forgotten, what does that say about how you are called to see the people around you?

Quote

Jesus told over 40 stories. This is the only time he mentions someone by name. Lazarus, the one whom God helps.

Prayer

Father, thank You that You see every person the world overlooks. Open our eyes to see others the way You do, and give us the courage to act on what we see. Amen.

Day 2: Comfort Can Make Us Blind

Devotional

Most of us would never describe ourselves as indifferent. We care about people. We want to do good. And yet, one of the quietest dangers of a comfortable life is that it slowly narrows our field of vision until we only see what is directly in front of us, and even then, only what we choose to notice.

The wealthy man in Jesus' parable was not necessarily cruel. He did not drive Lazarus away. He simply did not see him. Day after day, he walked past a suffering man at his own gate and felt nothing. Comfort had done its work. His world had shrunk to the size of his own life.

This is what the Bible calls practical atheism. A person can attend worship, know the right words, and still live as though God's priorities do not apply to them. The gap between what we say we believe and how we actually live is one of the most honest tests of our faith.

Grace is not just a doctrine we affirm. It is a reality that reshapes us from the inside out. When we truly understand what we have been given, it loosens our grip on comfort and opens our hands toward others.

You do not have to be wealthy to be blind. Busyness, grief, and routine can all close our eyes. The good news is that God, by His Spirit, can open them again.

Bible Verse

'Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?' - Isaiah 58:6 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

In what areas of your daily routine might comfort or busyness be quietly closing your eyes to the needs of those around you?

Quote

He is so focused on himself and his own life and all his stuff, you don't have time for anybody else. And he's blind to the needs of his neighbor.

Prayer

Lord, forgive us for the times we have looked without truly seeing. By Your Spirit, soften our hearts and sharpen our vision so that we notice what You notice. Amen.

Day 3: The Chasm We Dig

Devotional

In Jesus' parable, a great chasm separates the rich man from Lazarus in eternity. What is sobering is that this chasm did not appear out of nowhere. It was built, choice by choice, during the rich man's lifetime. Every day he chose not to see Lazarus was another day the distance grew.

This is a serious warning, but it is also a deeply practical one. The separations we allow to form between ourselves and those who are suffering do not stay neutral. They harden. They become habits of the heart. And habits of the heart shape who we are becoming.

Reformed theology reminds us that we are not saved by our works, but we are absolutely saved for them. Grace produces fruit. A life genuinely transformed by the gospel will look outward. It will notice the person at the gate. It will resist the pull toward self-sufficiency and isolation.

The encouraging truth is this: the chasm is not yet fixed for us. We are still on this side of eternity, which means we still have time to close the distance. Every act of kindness, every moment of genuine attention given to someone who is struggling, is a step in the right direction.

God has placed people in your path today. The question is not whether they are there. It is whether you will let yourself see them.

Bible Verse

'When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God.' - Leviticus 19:9-10 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

What habits or patterns in your life might be quietly building distance between you and the people God has placed in your path?

Quote

That great chasm that is described in our story, in a sense, was dug by the wealthy man. He didn't want to have anything to do with Lazarus. He turned a blind eye to him.

Prayer

Gracious God, show us where we have allowed distance to grow between ourselves and those who need us. Give us the will to close that gap while we still can. Amen.

Day 4: Blessed to Be a Blessing

Devotional

There is a pattern woven through all of Scripture that is easy to miss when we read individual passages in isolation. God blesses His people with a purpose. He told Abraham plainly: I am going to bless you so that you can be a blessing to others. That is not a footnote. It is the shape of the covenant.

When we receive grace, provision, health, community, or any good gift, the instinct of the old self is to hold it tightly. But the gospel reorients us. What we have received is not just for us. It is meant to flow outward.

This does not mean we are saved by generosity. We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. But a faith that never moves us toward others is worth examining. Real grace changes the direction of our lives.

The Lazaruses in our communities are not always easy to spot. Some are financially poor. Others are carrying grief no one knows about, or loneliness that looks like independence, or exhaustion that gets mistaken for strength. Paying attention is itself an act of love.

You have been given something. It may be time, presence, resources, or simply the willingness to stop and ask how someone is really doing. Whatever it is, it was given to you so that it could reach someone else. That is the pattern. That is the call.

Bible Verse

'The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your Father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing." - Genesis 12:1-2 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

What specific blessing in your life right now could you intentionally use to serve or encourage someone who is struggling?

Quote

Remember the big story in Genesis where God comes to Abraham and says, I'm going to bless you in order that you might be a blessing to others.

Prayer

Father, thank You for every good gift You have placed in our hands. Help us to hold those gifts loosely and use them generously for the sake of others and for Your glory. Amen.

Day 5: Open Your Eyes, Then Open the Door

Devotional

Revival is a word that gets used often, and it is usually associated with large movements, dramatic moments, or sweeping cultural change. But genuine renewal almost always begins in the small and the ordinary. It begins when one person decides to pay attention.

We are not called to solve every problem in the world. But we are called to be good neighbors. We are called to notice the person at our gate, whether that gate is our front door, our workplace, our church pew, or our neighborhood street. Shalom, the flourishing that God intends for His creation, does not arrive all at once. It grows as His people, one by one, choose to act on what they see.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer once said that we are not here just to bandage the wounds of those pressed down by injustice. We are here to drive a spoke into the wheel. That is a bold image, and it is meant to be. Compassion is not passive. It is active, intentional, and sometimes costly.

As you close this week of devotions, carry one question with you: What did you do for the kingdom? Not for your comfort, your reputation, or your plans. For the kingdom. The answer begins today, with open eyes and a willing heart. God has already placed someone in your path. Go and be a neighbor.

Bible Verse

'Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.' - Leviticus 19:18 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

If someone who knows you well were asked whether your faith shows up in how you treat the overlooked and struggling, what do you think they would say?

Quote

I remember Dietrich Bonhoeffer once saying, we're not here just to bandage the wounds of those pressed down by the wheel of injustice. We are here to drive a spoke into that wheel.

Prayer

Lord, make us people who see clearly, love boldly, and act faithfully. Let the revival You desire begin in our own hearts and spill out into every corner of our lives. Amen.