

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: When Love Overflows

Devotional

Picture the scene: a formal dinner party suddenly interrupted by an unexpected guest. A woman enters with an alabaster jar of expensive perfume, worth nearly a year's wages. Without regard for social conventions or the shocked stares around her, she breaks open her most precious possession and pours it over Jesus' feet. This wasn't a calculated gesture or religious performance - this was pure, uninhibited worship flowing from a heart transformed by grace. Her tears mixed with the perfume as she wiped His feet with her hair, creating one of the most beautiful expressions of worship found in Scripture. What drove her to such extravagant devotion? She had experienced something life-changing: forgiveness, freedom, and the removal of shame and guilt. When we truly grasp what Christ has done for us - dying for our sins, offering new life, removing our burden of shame - our natural response is overwhelming gratitude. This woman didn't care about the whispers or judgmental looks. She only cared about expressing her love to the One who had given her everything that mattered.

Bible Verse

'One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.' - Luke 7:36-50

Reflection Question

When you consider what Jesus has done for you, does your heart overflow with the same kind of desperate gratitude that compels you to worship Him extravagantly?

Quote

She doesn't care. She doesn't care. The only thing she cares about is expressing her love to Christ because of what she has been given. New life, forgiveness, freedom, removal of that shame and guilt.

Prayer

Jesus, help me to never lose sight of the magnitude of Your love and forgiveness in my life. May my worship flow from a heart that truly understands what You've done for me.

Day 2: Breaking Free from What Binds Us

Devotional

Mary Magdalene's story begins in darkness. Coming from the remote town of Magdala, she was bound by seven demons - a spiritual oppression that consumed her life. But then she encountered Jesus, and everything changed. Her deliverance wasn't just about obvious spiritual manifestations; it represents freedom from anything that holds us captive. Sometimes our 'demons' look different - addiction that blinds us to hope, greed that controls our decisions, or narcissism that makes us consumed only with ourselves. Whatever form our bondage takes, Jesus offers the same complete liberation He gave Mary. The beautiful truth is that Mary's response to her freedom became the foundation for a lifetime of devotion. She didn't just receive healing and walk away; she committed her entire life to following the One who set her free. Her transformation was so complete that she went from being controlled by darkness to becoming one of Jesus' most faithful disciples. This reminds us that no matter how deep our struggles or how long we've been bound, Jesus has the power to break every chain and create something beautiful from our brokenness.

Bible Verse

After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out.' - Luke 8:2

Reflection Question

What areas of your life feel bound or controlled by something other than Christ, and are you ready to surrender them completely to Him?

Quote

Sometimes demon possession doesn't always show up that way. It can show up in ways like addiction, where we get so hooked that we don't see the light and we become consumed by it.

Prayer

Lord, You have the power to break every chain that binds me. Help me to surrender completely to You and find my freedom in Your love.

Day 3: All In for Jesus

Devotional

What does it mean to be 'all in' for Jesus? Mary Magdalene shows us perfectly. After her deliverance, she didn't just add Jesus to her life - He became her life. She traveled with Him throughout His ministry, supported His work, and remained faithful even when others abandoned Him. When Jesus hung on the cross and most disciples fled in fear, Mary stood there. When He was buried, she was present. When the tomb was empty, she was among the first to witness His resurrection. Her devotion wasn't part-time or convenient; it was complete and unwavering. This challenges us to examine our own commitment. Is following Christ just a part of your life, or is He what's most precious to you? Mary's example shows us that authentic faith isn't about perfect performance or impressive credentials - she was an ordinary person with an extraordinary encounter with grace. What made her remarkable was her willingness to give everything to the One who had given her everything. Her desperate longing for Christ to be number one in her life transformed not just her own story, but made her a witness whose testimony would encourage believers for generations to come.

Bible Verse

'Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.' - Matthew 26:13

Reflection Question

If someone examined your life, would they see that Jesus is just a part of your life, or would they see that He is your life?

Quote

Is following Christ just a part of your life or is it all what's most precious to you?

Prayer

Jesus, I want to be all in for You. Help me to make You the center and priority of everything I do and say.

Day 4: Seeing People as God Sees Them

Devotional

The contrast couldn't be starker. When the woman with the alabaster jar entered Simon's house, the Pharisees saw only her past, her reputation, her sin. They reduced her to a label and wrote her off as unworthy. But Jesus saw something completely different - He saw someone created in God's image, someone worthy of love and capable of transformation. This reveals two fundamentally different ways of looking at people. Pharisees focus on sin, point fingers, and dehumanize others by reducing them to labels based on their mistakes, background, or differences. But prophets - those who truly speak God's heart - see grace first. They write people in rather than writing them off. They honor people and recognize their God-shaped design. Being with Jesus changes everything about how we view others. It transforms the way we think, talk, and react to people who are different from us or who have made mistakes. When we've experienced God's amazing grace in our own lives, we can't help but extend that same grace to others. We stop being judges and start being ambassadors of hope. We see beyond people's past to their potential future in Christ, just as Jesus did with both women in these stories.

Bible Verse

'So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.' - Galatians 3:26-28

Reflection Question

When you encounter people who are different from you or who have made mistakes, do you see them through the eyes of judgment or through the eyes of grace?

Quote

Pharisees write people off. Prophets write people in. Pharisees, as I mentioned, see only sin. Prophets see the image of God.

Prayer

God, help me to see people the way You see them - as beloved children created in Your image, worthy of love and capable of transformation.

Day 5: What Will You Pour Out?

Devotional

Both women in these stories had something precious they poured out for Jesus. The woman with the alabaster jar gave her most expensive possession - perfume worth a year's wages that may have been her dowry or life savings. Mary Magdalene poured out her entire life in service and devotion. Their extravagant giving wasn't motivated by obligation or guilt, but by overwhelming gratitude for what they had received. This challenges us to consider: what is there in your life that you might pour out for Christ? It might not be expensive perfume or a lifetime of ministry. It could be your time, your talents, your resources, or your comfort zone. Perhaps it's your pride, your need to control, or your fear of what others might think. Maybe it's your career ambitions, your weekend plans, or your financial security. The question isn't about the size or value of what we offer, but about the heart behind it. These women gave sacrificially because they understood the magnitude of what they had received. When we truly grasp that Jesus died for our sins, loved us enough to give His life, and freed us from shame and guilt, our natural response is to give back generously. What precious thing is God asking you to pour out in worship and service to Him?

Bible Verse

'Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.' - Matthew 27:55-56

Reflection Question

What is the most precious thing in your life that God might be calling you to pour out in worship and service to Him?

Quote

What is there in your life that you might pour out?

Prayer

Lord, everything I have comes from You. Show me what You're asking me to pour out, and give me the courage to offer it with a grateful heart.