

Truth Over Tradition

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: Don't Be Deceived: Stay Grounded in Jesus

Devotional

It is easy to get swept up in the noise of the world. Headlines scream, voices compete for your attention, and everyone seems to have an opinion about what is happening and why. In the middle of all of that, Jesus offers a simple but urgent word: watch out.

When His disciples asked about the signs of His return, Jesus did not hand them a timeline. His very first response was a warning against deception. False voices, convincing counterfeits, and misleading influences would come. And they have. They still do.

This is not meant to make you anxious. It is meant to make you anchored. Jesus was not trying to frighten His followers. He was equipping them. He wanted them, and us, to be so familiar with the real thing that nothing counterfeit could pull us away.

Think about the voices that shape your thinking every day. Social media, news, friends, culture. Some of those voices are helpful. Some are quietly pulling you away from Jesus without you even noticing.

The best defense against deception is not suspicion. It is closeness. The closer you are to Jesus, the harder it becomes for anything else to take His place. Stay in His Word. Stay in prayer. Stay in community with people who point you back to Him.

Bible Verse

'Watch out that no one deceives you.' - Matthew 24:4 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

What voices or influences in your daily life have the most power to shape what you believe, and are they drawing you closer to Jesus or pulling you away?

Quote

Who has influence over you? Who wants to influence you away from Jesus?

Prayer

Lord, help me to stay so close to You that deception has no room to take root in my heart. Give me discernment and a love for Your truth. Amen.

Day 2: Birth Pains: Signs That Point to a Promise

Devotional

When a mother is in labor, the pain is real. But the pain is not the point. The pain is pointing to something. New life is coming.

Jesus used that same picture when He described the signs of His return. Wars, famines, earthquakes, persecution, and hearts growing cold. These are not random chaos. Jesus called them the beginning of birth pains. They are signals that something greater is on the way.

It can be tempting to obsess over every headline and wonder if this is the sign. But Jesus was clear that no one knows the day or the hour. He never gave us a specific date. What He gave us was Himself, a Savior to follow and a promise to hold onto.

This changes how we read the news. Instead of fear, we can have perspective. Instead of anxiety, we can have hope. The world is not spinning out of control. It is moving toward a conclusion that God has already written.

You do not need to have every sign figured out. You need to know the One who holds every sign in His hands. When the world feels unstable, let it remind you that Jesus is still on the throne and His promises have never failed.

Bible Verse

'All these are the beginning of birth pains.' - Matthew 24:8 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

When you look at the troubles in the world around you, does your first response tend to be fear or faith, and what would it look like to let those troubles point you toward hope instead?

Quote

Jesus never gave us a specific date. He gave us a Savior to follow.

Prayer

Father, when the world feels overwhelming, remind me that You are not surprised by any of it. Anchor my heart in the hope of Your promises. Amen.

Day 3: Victory Over the Grave: Death Does Not Win

Devotional

There is a question that sits quietly in the back of every human heart: what happens when we die? It is the question that grief forces to the surface and that fear whispers in the dark.

Scripture answers it with stunning confidence. First Thessalonians 4 describes the return of Jesus as a moment when the dead in Christ will rise first, and then those who are alive will be caught up together with them. First Corinthians 15 adds that our broken, perishable bodies will be transformed in an instant into something that can never decay or die again.

Death does not have the final answer. Jesus does.

This is not wishful thinking. It is the promise of a God who has already defeated death through the resurrection of His Son. The same power that raised Jesus from the grave will one day raise every believer. That is not a distant theological idea. It is personal. It is for you.

If you have lost someone you love, this promise is for you. If you are afraid of what lies ahead, this promise is for you. Grief is real, and God does not dismiss it. But grief does not get the last word. Hope does.

Let this truth settle into your heart today: death has been swallowed up in victory, and that victory belongs to everyone who is in Christ.

Bible Verse

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" - 1 Corinthians 15:55 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

How would your daily life look different if you truly lived as someone who believed that death has already been defeated?

Quote

Death has been swallowed up in victory.

Prayer

Jesus, thank You that the grave could not hold You and that Your victory is my victory. Help me to live today with the confidence of someone who has real hope. Amen.

Day 4: Every Day Is an Opportunity: The Mercy Behind the Wait

Devotional

Have you ever wondered why Jesus has not come back yet? It is a fair question. The signs are everywhere. The world is hurting. And yet, we wait.

Here is a perspective that changes everything: the delay is not abandonment. It is mercy.

Every single day that passes is another day for someone to hear the gospel and say yes to Jesus. A neighbor. A coworker. A family member who has been walking away. God is not slow in keeping His promise. He is patient, and His patience is saving lives.

This means that waiting is not passive. It is purposeful. While we wait, we are called to love God with everything we have and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We are called to share the good news, to steward what God has entrusted to us, and to live in a way that reflects the kingdom that is coming.

You are not just killing time until Jesus returns. You are participating in the final chapter of God's redemptive story. The people around you matter. Your faithfulness matters. Your love matters.

So do not sit on the sidelines. Engage. Serve. Invite. Encourage. Every day is a gift, and every day is an opportunity to point someone toward the Savior who is coming.

Bible Verse

'Therefore encourage one another with these words.' - 1 Thessalonians 4:18
(New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

Is there someone in your life right now who needs to hear about Jesus, and what is one practical step you could take this week to share that hope with them?

Quote

Every day that Jesus doesn't come is also an opportunity for somebody also to return their life to Jesus.

Prayer

Lord, help me to see the people around me the way You see them. Give me courage to love well and to share the hope I have in You while there is still time. Amen.

Day 5: Know the Savior: The Best Way to Watch

Devotional

It is possible to spend so much time studying the signs of Jesus' return that you forget to actually know Jesus Himself. Signs can become a distraction when they pull your focus away from the One the signs are pointing to.

Here is the better way: know the Savior. When you truly know Jesus, the signs take care of themselves. You do not need to be an expert in prophecy charts. You need to be someone who spends time with Him, talks to Him, listens to Him, and loves Him.

The longer you spend time with someone, the better you know them. That is true of any relationship, and it is true of your relationship with Jesus. The more time you invest in knowing Him, the more clearly you will see His hand in the world around you.

And here is the beautiful thing: knowing Jesus does not just prepare you for His return. It transforms your life right now. It gives you peace when things are uncertain. It gives you courage when things are hard. It gives you joy that does not depend on circumstances.

As this week closes, take one step closer to Jesus. Open your Bible. Spend a few extra minutes in prayer. Reach out to a fellow believer and encourage them. Fall in love with the Savior all over again. He is worth it, and He is coming.

Bible Verse

'So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.' - Matthew 24:44 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

Are you more focused on watching for the signs of Jesus' return or on actually knowing Jesus Himself, and what would it look like to shift that balance?

Quote

Watch and know the Savior and as you do so, you'll be able to see the signs.

Prayer

Jesus, I want to know You more than I want to know anything else. Draw me closer to You this week, and let my life reflect the hope and love that only You can give. Amen.