

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: Are You Ready? The Power of Preparation

Devotional

Waiting is something we all do, but how we wait makes all the difference. In the parable of the ten virgins, every single one of them fell asleep. That detail is easy to overlook. The difference between the wise and the foolish was not that some stayed awake and others did not. It was that some came prepared and others did not.

Preparation is not a one-time event. It is a daily rhythm. It is choosing, again and again, to spend time with God, to stay connected to your church community, and to keep your spiritual life from running on empty. Life gets busy. Seasons get hard. And it is surprisingly easy to drift without even noticing.

But here is the encouragement: preparation is available to you right now. Today is not too late to return to the habits that keep your faith alive. Open your Bible. Pray honestly. Show up for your community. These small, consistent choices are what it means to keep your lamp full.

Jesus is coming. That is not a reason for anxiety. It is a reason for intentionality. Let the nearness of His return motivate you to live with purpose and readiness, not out of fear, but out of love for the One you are waiting for.

Bible Verse

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour." - Matthew 25:13 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

If you honestly evaluated your spiritual habits right now, would you say your lamp is full, running low, or nearly empty, and what is one step you could take today to change that?

Quote

"Are we taking time to spend God? Are we taking time to be in the community? Are we faithful?"

Prayer

Lord, help me not to drift into complacency while I wait for Your return. Renew in me a daily desire to seek You, stay connected to Your people, and keep my heart prepared. Amen.

Day 2: Faithful With What You Have Been Given

Devotional

God has placed something in you on purpose. That is not a motivational phrase. It is a theological truth. In the parable of the talents, the master distributed resources to each servant according to their ability. There was intention behind every amount. He was not setting anyone up to fail. He was trusting each person with exactly what they could handle.

The servant who buried his talent did not do so out of laziness. He did it out of fear. And fear, left unchecked, will convince you that doing nothing is the safest option. But inaction has consequences too. The master's response was not gentle. Burying what God has given you is not humility. It is waste.

Here is what is freeing about this parable: God is not asking for perfection. He is not asking you to produce results beyond your capacity. He is simply asking you to try. To use what He has placed in your hands. To take one step forward even when you are unsure of the outcome.

Courage is not the absence of fear. It is moving forward in spite of it. Whatever gift, opportunity, or resource God has entrusted to you, it is worth using. He believed in you when He gave it. Trust that.

Bible Verse

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'" - Matthew 25:23 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

What is one gift, ability, or opportunity God has placed in your life that fear or doubt has caused you to hold back from fully using?

Quote

"The people who have courage to do great things, are they fearful at all? All the time. But they move in spite."

Prayer

Father, thank You for trusting me with what You have placed in my hands. Give me the courage to step forward in faith, and help me to be faithful with every gift You have given me. Amen.

Day 3: Trying Is Enough

Devotional

There is a quiet pressure many of us carry: the feeling that unless we do something significant, it does not count. But the parable of the talents tells a different story. The master did not reward the servants based on how much they produced. He rewarded them based on whether they were faithful with what they had.

One servant received five talents and returned ten. Another received two and returned four. Both heard the same words: well done. The return was different. The praise was identical. Why? Because faithfulness is not measured by output. It is measured by effort and trust.

God is not standing over your life with a scorecard, waiting for you to impress Him. He is a master who believed in His servants enough to entrust them with something real. And all He asks in return is that you try. That you show up. That you allow Him to work in and through your life.

If you have been waiting until you feel more qualified, more confident, or more prepared, this is your invitation to start now. Small steps of faithfulness, taken consistently, are exactly what God is looking for. You do not have to be extraordinary. You just have to be willing.

Bible Verse

"To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey." - Matthew 25:15 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

In what area of your life have you been waiting to feel "ready enough" before stepping out in faith, and what would it look like to simply try?

Quote

"All he simply wants us to do is try."

Prayer

God, thank You that You do not require perfection from me, only faithfulness. Help me to stop waiting for the perfect moment and to trust that You will work through my willing effort. Amen.

Day 4: Seeing Jesus in Every Face

Devotional

The third picture Jesus paints in Matthew 25 is perhaps the most unexpected. At the final judgment, people are separated not based on their theology or their church attendance, but on how they treated the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the sick, and the imprisoned. And the most striking detail is this: neither group knew they were serving or rejecting Jesus.

Those who showed compassion were not doing it to earn points. They were simply responding to need. And in doing so, they were encountering Christ Himself. Jesus says plainly: whatever you did for the least of these, you did for Me.

This changes everything about how we move through ordinary days. The coworker who is difficult. The neighbor you have never spoken to. The person in line who looks like they are carrying something heavy. Each of them carries a weight of significance that we cannot always see.

Compassion does not require a platform or a program. It requires presence and a willing heart. Quiet, consistent generosity is one of the most powerful forms of witness. It does not need an audience. It just needs you to show up and see people the way Jesus sees them.

Bible Verse

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" - Matthew 25:40 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

When you encounter someone in need, whether a stranger, a coworker, or a neighbor, do you tend to see a problem to manage or a person in whom Jesus is present?

Quote

"If God identifies with those who are hungry, those who are thirsty, those who are in prison, those who need clothes, those who are in need, how does that change your perspective?"

Prayer

Lord, open my eyes to see the people around me the way You see them. Give me a heart that responds with compassion and a willingness to serve without needing recognition. Amen.

Day 5: Prepared, Faithful, and Compassionate Until He Comes

Devotional

Over these past four days, three pictures have come into focus: the prepared virgins, the faithful servants, and the compassionate neighbors. Together, they form a complete portrait of what it looks like to live well while waiting for Jesus to return.

Preparation keeps our relationship with God alive and our spiritual lives from running dry. Faithfulness moves us to use what God has entrusted to us, even when fear whispers that we should hold back. Compassion opens our eyes to see Jesus in the faces of those around us and compels us to act.

None of these three things require perfection. They require intentionality. They require showing up, day after day, in the small and ordinary moments of life. And here is the beautiful truth: Jesus is not asking you to do this alone. He who overcame the world is the same One leading and guiding you right now, toward that glorious day when He returns.

So take heart. Be wise. Keep your lamp full. Use what He has given you. Love the people in front of you. The time between now and His return is not empty waiting. It is purposeful living. And every faithful step you take matters more than you know.

Bible Verse

"And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed." - Romans 13:11 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

Of the three challenges, being prepared, being faithful, and being compassionate, which one requires the most growth from you right now, and what is one concrete step you can take this week?

Quote

"Until that glorious, wonderful, beautiful day, help us to be wise."

Prayer

Father, thank You for the hope of Jesus' return. Help me to live each day with preparation, faithfulness, and compassion, trusting that You are with me every step of the way until that glorious day. Amen.