

DEVOTIONAL: 25 DAYS PREPARING FOR THE COMING KING

SET THE TABLE



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DISCIPLESHIP

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DAY EIGHTEEN: GIVE JESUS YOUR ACTIONS

EPHESIANS 2:10

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Good works are those actions that bring honor and glory to God.

From the way you love your friends and family to the way you work at your job, you were created to worship the Lord. No matter the task, you are His handiwork! Like a watch is designed to tell time, you are designed to live your life displaying the Lord's goodness through your words and actions.

Do your actions point people to you or Him?

Pray: Lord, teach me to live in a way that displays Your miraculous work in me.

DAY NINETEEN: GIVE JESUS YOUR TIME

EPHESIANS 5:15–16

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

It doesn't matter who you are, everyone has twenty-four hours in a day. Billionaire investor Warren Buffett famously said, “I can buy anything I want but I can't buy time.” With only six days until Christmas, you may even be thinking of just how quickly time has passed in this season. But among all the tasks and to-do lists, remember that your time is limited. Jesus is calling you to make the most of every opportunity by prioritizing those things that make an eternal impact.

Is your time being spent on what the Lord says is most important?

Pray: Lord, forgive me for the opportunities I have wasted. Show me how to prioritize Your ways and invest my time in the things that honor You.

DAY TWENTY: GIVE JESUS YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

MATTHEW 11:28-30

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

The world is constantly stuck in a restless cycle. People remain enslaved to their tasks and schedules as they continue running in their proverbial hamster wheels. Why? Because the fall of humanity shattered God's perfect created order - a perfect order defined by all things resting in Him as King. Yet Jesus promises to restore this rest for all those who come to Him. If you are tired and weary in this Christmas season, go to Jesus and He promises to take your burdens, pick you up and give you the strength you need to keep going.

Where do you go to find rest for your soul?

Pray: Lord, I cannot find rest without You. I need You to take my restlessness, refocus my eyes, and give me strength to live a godly life

DAY TWENTY-ONE: GIVE JESUS YOUR FEAR

JOHN 14:1

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

You fear what you can't control. Yet one of the most frequent commands in the Bible is the Lord telling His people, "Do not be afraid!" Why? Because the Lord is calling you to fear Him instead. Part of what it means to fear the Lord is to walk in faith, believing that even though you can't control certain parts of your life, He can. Don't allow your fear of what you can't control overtake your fear of the One Who controls all things.

Have you let your fears grow bigger than your God?

Pray: Lord, though there are many things in this world that I cannot control, I believe that You hold everything in Your hands. Teach me to fear You.

DAY TWENTY-TWO: GIVE JESUS YOUR SUFFERING

2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Living as a light in a dark world can be hard. Sometimes you will feel lonely. Sometimes you will feel hopeless. Sometimes you will feel like an outcast. But take heart! Every act of obedience is not worthless. Rather, these hardships pale in comparison to your glorious future with Jesus. In a world that makes Christmas about every thing except Jesus, stand firm on His Word and continue to point people to the true meaning of Christmas.

Do you believe that your momentary troubles will be far outweighed by a glorious future?

Pray: Lord, in the midst of suffering, teach me to set my mind on the things to come, not on earthly things. Lord, in the midst of suffering, teach me to set my mind on the things to come, not on earthly things.

DAY TWENTY-THREE: GIVE JESUS YOUR GRATITUDE

1 CORINTHIANS 15:57–58

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Thankfulness to God is recognizing that the Lord in His perfect faithfulness has given you everything you need for a life in Him. Further, it is a life posture of dependence on Him. Everything you are and everything you have comes from God. Therefore, failing to be thankful is a serious sin. Christmas is two days away. Don't miss all the opportunities you have to give thanks back to God during this season. The more you remember His ways and give thanks, the more your life will be devoted to Him.

How has the Lord been good in your life?

Pray: Lord, forgive me for my ungrateful heart. Everything I have comes from You. I thank You and I praise You for You are good and worthy to be praised.

DAY TWENTY-FOUR: GIVE JESUS YOUR HOPE

ROMANS 12:12

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Christmas is a season of hope. Though you are surrounded by brokenness, sin and suffering, Jesus came into this world so that everyone who believes in Him would not die but have everlasting life. If you find yourself discouraged and hopeless, run to His Word, fall to your knees in prayer and surround yourself with other believers who can encourage you to remember what is to come. In a world that will chew you up and spit you out, keep your eyes fixed on the joyful hope you have in Jesus.

Is your hope in Jesus?

Pray: : Lord, help me to keep my eyes fixed on You so that I may walk in faith as I hope in Your unfailing Word.

DAY TWENTY-FIVE: GIVE JESUS YOUR JOY

LUKE 2:10-14

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Over the past 25 days, you have set the table for this moment by giving Jesus various aspects of your life. Why? Because when you give Jesus your life, He promises to fill you with His joy. Christmas is a season that brings good news that should cause great joy: Jesus was born! There is no more marvelous point in human history than when God humbled Himself, took on flesh and carried out His salvation plan. May today be filled with His praises as He overwhelms you with His joy!

Is your hope in Jesus?

Pray: : Lord, help me to keep my eyes fixed on You so that I may walk in faith as I hope in Your unfailing Word.