

5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

The Gospel of Mark:
From The Crowd To The Called

OVERVIEW

This devotional is an invitation to move from simply being part of the crowd around Jesus to becoming one of the called who walks closely with Him. Over the next five days, you'll practice being with Jesus personally, growing with Him in community, and responding to His sending in the power of the Holy Spirit. Take it one day at a time, trusting God's providence and listening for His voice as He forms you into a saint set apart for love and service.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW THE SERMON

LIVING HOPE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

203-637-3669
office@livinghopect.org
38 West End Ave
Old Greenwich, CT 06870

01	**Mark 3:13-14**
02	**1 John 1:9**
03	**Hebrews 12:1-2**
04	**Acts 2:42**
05	**Matthew 28:19-20**

DAY 1

MARK 3:13-14

Jesus doesn't begin discipleship by giving people a task list; He begins by calling people to Himself. In the sermon, we heard the simple but foundational invitation: be with Him. Before we think about what we should do for God, we learn to receive His presence, His love, and His direction—one day at a time. Being "with Jesus" is not about proving your worth; it's about belonging. If you've ever felt like you don't measure up or don't have a place, Jesus' call speaks directly to that ache. He calls ordinary, imperfect people into relationship so that identity comes before assignment and grace comes before growth.
Today, focus on presence over performance. Create a small space in your day to say, "Speak, Lord—your servant is listening," and stay there long enough to notice what rises in your heart. Discipleship starts when we stop running and let Jesus set the pace. He is not anxious, and He is not late—He is forming you by being with you.

- When in your day are you most able to be attentive to God's presence, and what is one realistic way to protect that time?
- What do you tend to believe you must "do" to be acceptable to God, and how does Jesus' call to be with Him challenge that belief?
- Write a simple prayer you can repeat today: "Jesus, I want to be with You; help me listen."
- What has been crowd-like about your faith lately (watching, observing, staying distant), and what would one step toward closeness look like?
- Choose one distraction to limit today so you can practice being present with Jesus (phone, noise, multitasking, rushing).

DAY 2
1 JOHN 1:9

Being with Jesus includes bringing the real you into the light. The sermon reminded us that confession isn't a spiritual humiliation; it's a gift—because forgiveness is promised. When we confess, we stop managing appearances and start living from cleansing and grace.

Confession also helps us discern the times within our own hearts. Sometimes what we call "stress" is actually guilt; sometimes what we call "busy" is actually avoidance. Jesus doesn't invite you close so He can condemn you—He invites you close so He can heal you at the root, restoring what sin has bent out of shape.

Today, practice honesty with God. Name what you need to name—words you wish you could take back, compromises you've normalized, resentments you've fed, patterns you've hidden. Then receive what is just as real: God is faithful and just to forgive and to cleanse, because Jesus has already carried what you confess.

- What is one area of your life where you are tempted to hide rather than heal? Name it plainly before God.
- How does believing "God is faithful and just" change the way you approach confession?
- Is there a relationship where you need to pursue reconciliation? What is one humble step you can take this week?
- What pattern keeps tripping you up (a thought, habit, or coping mechanism), and what might repentance look like in practical terms?
- After you confess, write down one sentence of truth to carry today (for example: "In Christ, I am forgiven and being cleansed.").

DAY 3
HEBREWS 12:1-2

The sermon pointed to a life of following Jesus daily—endurance, not intensity. Hebrews describes a race where we lay aside weights and keep our eyes on Jesus, the One who initiates and perfects faith. This means spiritual growth is not primarily you trying harder; it's you learning to look longer at the right Person.

Some burdens are sinful weights; others are heavy expectations you were never meant to carry. When Jesus says His yoke is easy and His burden is light, He is not denying your pain—He is offering a different way to move through it. Endurance grows when you release what drains your soul and take up what Jesus actually assigns.

Today, ask God to show you one "weight" to put down and one faithful step to pick up. You don't have to solve your whole life; you can run today's portion of the race. Keep your gaze steady: Jesus is not only the goal at the finish—He is the strength for the next step.

- What is one weight slowing you down right now (a fear, a habit, an expectation, a resentment, a secret)?
- What does "fixing your eyes on Jesus" look like in a concrete practice for you today (Scripture, worship, silence, prayer walk)?
- Where have you been trying to power your spiritual life through willpower instead of dependence on Christ?
- Who is part of your "cloud of witnesses"—people whose faith encourages you—and how can you learn from them this week?
- Choose one small act of endurance today: do the next right thing with Jesus, even if your feelings lag behind.

DAY 4
ACTS 2:42

Jesus calls us to be with Him, and the sermon emphasized we are also called to be with Him together. Christian community is not an accessory to discipleship; it's one of God's primary tools for forming our character. In community, we practice forgiveness, humility, truth-telling, and love in ways we can't learn alone.

Real community also creates space for both giving and receiving. The testimony in the sermon highlighted how God can love people through us in simple acts—listening, showing up, serving, offering hospitality. Those moments are not "small" to the person receiving them, and they are often how God makes His care tangible.

Today, consider how you can move from attending to belonging. Devotion, confession, communion, and service weren't meant to be private achievements; they're shared rhythms. Ask God where you need to lean in—joining, reconciling, showing up consistently, or letting someone else support you.

- Where are you tempted to isolate, and what fear is underneath that impulse?
- What is one way you can practice "devotion" with other believers this week (small group, prayer, serving, shared meal)?
- Who in your community might need a practical expression of Jesus' love, and what is one doable act of care you can offer?
- Is there a habit or pattern you need others to help you grow in? Who could you invite into that conversation?
- What would it look like for you to move from being a consumer of church to a contributor to the family of God?

DAY 5
MATTHEW 28:19-20

Jesus calls us to be with Him and then sends us out. The sermon reminded us that the gospel is meant to move—through ordinary people empowered by the Holy Spirit. Being "sent" doesn't require a platform; it requires availability: listening, loving, speaking truth with gentleness, and trusting God to do what only God can do.

This sending includes both words and deeds. We proclaim forgiveness and new life in Christ, and we also embody His mercy through service, hospitality, and presence. When fear rises—fear of rejection, fear of saying the wrong thing, fear of not being "qualified"—remember that Jesus sends with His authority and promises His presence always.

Today, take one intentional step into your mission field: your home, workplace, neighborhood, school, or friendships. Ask the Spirit for one person to pray for, one conversation to approach with humility, or one need to meet with quiet faithfulness. You're not sent alone; you're sent as part of God's people, carrying His love into the world.

- Who is one person God may be placing on your heart to pray for consistently this week? Write their name and pray for them today.
- What is one simple way you can share the hope of Jesus naturally—without pressure or forcing—through a question, a story, or an invitation?
- Where do you feel intimidated or unqualified, and what promise of Jesus in this passage addresses that fear?
- Identify one act of service you can do in the next 48 hours that reflects Christ's love (help, generosity, hospitality, encouragement).
- What would it mean for you to live as "called and sent" tomorrow morning before your day begins? Write a one-sentence commitment to start your day with surrender.



THANK YOU

For Completing Our 5 Day Devotional

As you conclude these five days, remember that the call of Jesus is both deeply personal and wonderfully purposeful. He calls you first to be with Him—to know His love, receive His forgiveness, and allow His Spirit to shape your heart. He invites you to grow alongside others, where faith is strengthened, burdens are shared, and the love of Christ becomes visible through community. And then He sends you into the world, not in your own strength or ability, but empowered by the Holy Spirit and assured of His presence. Discipleship is not a one-time response but a daily journey of surrender, growth, and obedience. You don't have to have everything figured out or be perfectly prepared; you simply have to remain available to Jesus. May you move beyond being part of the crowd to becoming a faithful disciple—one who walks closely with Christ, grows deeply in community, and carries His love and good news wherever He leads.