

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS

Daily Devotions

Mark 9:30-41

Day 1: Anchored in Christ's Finished Work, Not Our Own Effort

Trusting in Jesus' completed work on the cross is the foundation of the Christian life. It is easy to slip into thinking that our relationship with God depends on our performance, our understanding, or our religious activity. Yet, the heart of the gospel is not about what we do for God, but what God has done for us in Christ. Jesus' disciples, though close to him, often missed this truth, reminding us that proximity to spiritual things does not guarantee understanding or faith.

Each day, we are invited to return to the cross, laying down our self-reliance and resting in the grace that Jesus freely gives. Our hope and identity are not built on shifting sands of achievement or failure, but on the unchanging reality of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection. This truth humbles us, frees us from striving, and invites us to live in the security of God's love.

Read: Colossians 1:13-14

Reflection: Where in your life are you tempted to rely on your own efforts for God's approval? How can you intentionally rest in Christ's finished work today?

Day 2: Greatness Redefined by Humble Service

In God's kingdom, greatness is not measured by status, recognition, or influence, but by a willingness to serve the least and unnoticed. Jesus challenged his disciples' arguments about who was the greatest by placing a child—a symbol of vulnerability and insignificance—at the center. He taught that true greatness is found in humility, in making oneself last, and in serving others without seeking reward.

Humility is not a strategy for advancement, but a way of life rooted in the gospel. When we serve others quietly and faithfully, we reflect the heart of Christ, who made himself nothing for our sake. The call is to look for opportunities to serve those who cannot repay us, to honor the overlooked, and to find joy in being last so that others may be lifted up.

Read: Mark 10:43-45

Reflection: Who is someone in your life today that you can serve in a small, unnoticed way? What would it look like to serve them without expecting anything in return?

Day 3: Discipleship as a Shared, Lifelong Journey

Spiritual growth is not a solo endeavor. Jesus modeled discipleship by investing deeply in a small group, showing that transformation happens through intentional relationships and shared life. We are called to be disciples first—continually turning from sin, growing in faith, and immersing ourselves in God's Word.

This journey is meant to be walked together. The encouragement, correction, and support of a church family are essential for helping one another trust and follow Jesus more faithfully. Discipleship is a lifelong process, marked by both personal devotion and communal commitment. As we walk alongside others, we experience God's grace in new ways and help each other become more like Christ.

Read: Hebrews 10:24-25

Reflection: Who in your church family can you encourage or support in their walk with Jesus this week? How can you take a step toward deeper community?

Day 4: Celebrating the Wide Reach of God's Kingdom

God's kingdom is far bigger than our preferences, traditions, or affiliations. The disciples wanted to limit God's work to their group, but Jesus insisted that anyone acting in his name belongs to him. We are called to celebrate and encourage good done in Jesus' name, even when it comes from unexpected places or people.

This perspective cultivates humility and generosity, reminding us that God's redemptive work is global and diverse. Instead of drawing boundaries, we are invited to rejoice in the breadth of God's family and to partner with others in his mission. Let us open our hearts to the surprising ways God is at work beyond our circles, and pray for a vision that matches the size of his kingdom.

Read: Habakkuk 2:14

Reflection: Is there a person, group, or ministry outside your usual circles that you can encourage or pray for today? How can you celebrate God's work through them?

Day 5: Good Works as a Joyful Response to Grace

Our acts of service and love are not a means to earn God's approval, but a joyful response to the grace we have received. When we belong to Christ, good works flow naturally from our new identity. Every small act of kindness, every investment in others, and every effort to reach the lost is significant in God's eyes.

We are invited to participate in God's unfolding plan to bless the world, not out of obligation, but out of gratitude. As we serve, give, and do good in Jesus' name, we become part of his glorious, global mission. Let us commit to a life of trust, humble service, and good works, knowing that we are loved and sent by Christ.

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:8

Reflection: What is one small act of kindness or service you can do today as a response to God's grace in your life? How can you make this a regular practice?

Day 6: Read Mark 9:42-10:12.