

Day 1: The Cost of Discipleship

Reading: Luke 14:25-33

Devotional: Jesus' words about "hating" family members can be jarring, but they emphasize the supreme devotion required to follow Him. Today, reflect on what it means to put Christ first in your life. Are there areas where your devotion to family, career, or personal interests competes with your commitment to Jesus? Consider how prioritizing your relationship with Christ can actually enhance your other relationships and responsibilities. Pray for the courage to fully surrender to God's will, even when it's challenging.

Day 2: From Crowds to Commitment

Reading: John 6:60-69

Devotional: Many people followed Jesus for the excitement and miracles, but fewer were willing to embrace His difficult teachings. Peter's declaration, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life," reminds us that true discipleship goes beyond casual interest. Today, examine your own motivations for following Christ. Are you seeking personal gain, or are you committed to Him regardless of circumstances? Ask God to deepen your faith and help you move from being a spectator to a fully devoted follower.

Day 3: Love God Above All

Reading: Matthew 22:34-40

Devotional: Jesus teaches that loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind is the greatest commandment. This echoes His call to prioritize our relationship with Him above all else. Consider how loving God supremely enables us to love others more effectively. Are there ways you can demonstrate your love for God more fully today? Reflect on how your love for God impacts your daily decisions and interactions with others. Pray for a heart that consistently puts God first.

Day 4: Taking Up Your Cross

Reading: Mark 8:34-38

Devotional: Jesus calls us to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him. This imagery of the cross represents sacrifice and suffering for His sake. In a world that often promotes self-indulgence, Christ's call to self-denial is countercultural. What might "taking up your cross" look like in your life today? It could involve forgiving someone who's hurt you, serving others sacrificially, or standing firm in your faith despite opposition. Ask God for the strength to embrace the challenges of true discipleship.

Day 5: The Joy of Surrender

Reading: Philippians 3:7-14

Devotional: Paul describes counting everything as loss compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ. This radical devotion led to a life of purpose and joy, despite tremendous hardships. Reflect on the pastor's words about the thrill of being used by God in someone's life surpassing any worldly experience. Have you experienced the deep satisfaction that comes from fully surrendering to God's will? Today, pray for opportunities to be used by God, and ask for the courage to say "yes" when He calls you to step out in faith.