

Day 1: The First Love

Reading: Exodus 20:1-3, Revelation 2:1-5

Devotional: God's first commandment reminds us of the importance of prioritizing our relationship with Him. Just as He declared "I am the Lord your God" before giving the commandments, He initiates love towards us before asking for our devotion. Reflect on how God has demonstrated His love in your life. Have you, like the church in Ephesus, forgotten your first love? Take time today to renew your commitment to putting God first, not out of obligation, but out of a response to His overwhelming love for you.

Day 2: New Wine, New Wineskins

Reading: Mark 2:18-22, Romans 12:1-2

Devotional: Jesus speaks of the incompatibility of new wine with old wineskins, illustrating the transformative nature of His message. This echoes Paul's call to be "transformed by the renewing of your mind." Consider areas in your life where you might be trying to fit God's new work into old patterns or habits. Are there "wineskins" in your life that need replacing? Pray for God to help you embrace the total transformation He offers, letting go of old ways to fully receive the new life He provides.

Day 3: Freedom Through Obedience

Reading: John 8:31-36, James 1:22-25

Devotional: The sermon emphasized that true love for God is demonstrated through obedience. This might seem counterintuitive - how can obedience lead to freedom? Yet Jesus teaches that knowing the truth sets us free, and James compares God's word to a mirror that shows us who we truly are. Reflect on how following God's ways has brought freedom in your life. Are there areas where you're resisting obedience? Ask God for the courage to trust and obey, knowing that His commands are for your good and ultimate freedom.

Day 4: Identifying Modern Idols

Reading: 1 John 5:20-21, Colossians 3:5-10

Devotional: The sermon highlighted various "gods" we might put before the true God - possessions, piety, people, and even ourselves. John warns us to keep ourselves from idols, while Paul urges us to put to death whatever belongs to our earthly nature. Take an honest inventory of your life today. What consumes your thoughts? What drives your decisions? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any idols in your heart, and pray for the strength to dethrone them, keeping God in His rightful place as Lord of your life.

Day 5: Living in Covenant Relationship

Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 8:10-12

Devotional: God's commandments are more than rules - they're an invitation to covenant relationship. The prophet Jeremiah foretold a new covenant where God's law would be written on our hearts, not just stone tablets. This is fulfilled in Christ, who enables us to love and obey God from the inside out. Reflect on how your relationship with God has evolved from following external rules to an internal transformation. Thank God for His patience and grace in this process, and ask Him to continue writing His law of love on your heart.