

A vibrant crowd of young people at a concert or event. In the foreground, a man with a beard and a baseball cap is smiling broadly, raising his right hand. He has a tattoo on his forearm. Behind him, other young people are visible, some with their hands raised, suggesting a lively atmosphere. The image is framed by a large white circle and a blue curved line.

30-DAY DEVOTIONAL

FOR STUDENTS

who's your
1ONE?

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As a student, you'll often hear people tell you that "you're the future of the church." I know what people mean by that. I've told teenagers that many times myself. You're the future leaders and influencers of the church. That part is true. However, according to the New Testament, if you've been bought by the blood of Jesus and the Holy Spirit of God lives inside of you, you are not the future of the church. You are the church right now! You have a purpose now. You have a calling on your life now. You are called to the Great Commission right now!

So, in light of the Great Commission, who is your *one*? Who is one person in your life that doesn't know Jesus as Lord and Savior? Maybe it's someone from your school, a friend, a coworker, a team mate or a family member. Who is one person that you can begin to pray for every day asking God to save them, to open their hearts to the gospel and to provide you an opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with them?

I'm asked all the time what the secret sauce is to reaching your generation. You know better than I do that there is no "secret sauce," but there is a powerful, life-changing gospel. And that is what your generation, and mine, desperately needs. So, as the church right now, are you ready to go share with your *one*? Is your heart ready?

This devotional is geared specifically towards cultivating your heart to go tell your one about Jesus, by helping you spend time with the Lord in Scripture reading and in prayer every day. I know for me personally, when I am walking in intimacy with God in Scripture reading and prayer, then I naturally will share out of the overflow of my own worship of Jesus. We all naturally talk about what our heart is excited about.

I'm so excited to take this 30-day journey with you to see what God will do in your heart and those around you. Each day is designed to take about 10 minutes. I believe God will richly bless you, encourage you and challenge you over these 30-days as you dive into this devotional. I'm praying God would cultivate all of our hearts to fall more in love with Him and be burdened for our *ones*. It's not our job to save people; that is God's job. However, it is our job to share the gospel with a world in desperate need of it.

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Next Gen On Mission Podcast

DAY 1 YOU ARE CALLED TO FOLLOW JESUS

READ: Mark 1:16–20

“Follow me,” Jesus told them, “and I will make you fish for people.”

Mark 1:17, CSB

In Mark 1, Jesus calls Peter, Andrew, James and John to drop their nets and follow Him. Notice they didn’t say, “Hey, we will just catch you the next time you come through town,” or, “Hey, we will follow you and listen to what you have to say, but don’t ask us to do anything.” In fact, what the men did was drop what they were doing and follow Him. They were taught by Him and then put His teaching into practice by fishing for people.

Now, they didn’t always get it right, nor did they always fully understand what Jesus was asking them to do. In fact, early on, they got it wrong more than they got it right. However, they were on a journey of following Jesus, and once they received the Holy Spirit, they grew tremendously. They went “all in” with their faith, and God would turn the world upside down through these ordinary men who decided to follow an extraordinary Jesus!

Before being used to reach people with the message of Jesus, their first step was to “drop their nets.” They had to drop their past, drop their comforts, and drop anything that would distract them from the primary call on their lives—to know Jesus and to make Him known.

PRAY: Take time to pray and thank God for saving you. Ask Him, “Who should my *one* be?”

ACT: Go to WhosYourOne.com. Place the name and location of your *one* on the interactive map and commit to pray for them by name every day.

DAY JESUS IS GOD WITH US

READ: John 1:1–5, 14–18

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14, CSB

Have you ever thought to yourself, “If God is real, then why doesn’t He just reveal Himself? Why won’t He just speak to us in a loud audible voice saying, ‘Hey, here I am! This is what I’m like!’?” If God would just let us all see Him, then surely everyone would believe. After all it’s really hard for mankind to believe in someone they can’t see or touch.

Guess what? That is exactly what God did! He showed Himself and spoke to us through Jesus Christ.

John 1 presents to us a beautiful idea of who Jesus is. He is the perfect representation of what God the Father is really like. God revealed Himself to His creation, and many still did not believe. In fact, they crucified Him!

Realize today that you serve a God who loves you so much that He took the time to reveal Himself to you through His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say ‘Show us the Father?’”

PRAY: Take time today thanking Him for revealing Himself to us through Jesus Christ.

ACT: Remind yourself that when you tell your *one* about Jesus, you’re telling them about God.

DAY **3**

POINTING TO THE ONE, WHO IS GREATER

READ: Mark 1:1–8

He proclaimed, “One who is more powerful than I am is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals.”

Mark 1:7, CSB

If you’re a boxing fan, you know at main-event boxing matches that there are always under-card bouts. Under-card bouts are often fights between two lesser-known boxers designed to get the crowd ready for the main event, which is the championship fight between the two heavy-weight boxers.

Maybe you are not a boxing fan; instead, you may be a fan of food. When you go to a restaurant, you have the appetizer—a small dish to prepare you for the better main course meal that is soon coming.

John the Baptist told the crowds who came out to hear him preach, “One who is more powerful than I am is coming after me.” People knew that John the Baptist was a prophet sent from God, and his words were to be heeded. However, they must have been stunned to hear John saying, “I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals.” John was just the “under-card” or “appetizer” to get the people ready for the most important of all, Jesus Christ!

You must realize that church does not take the place of Jesus, books about Him do not replace Him and music cannot take the place of His greatness. Our job as believers is to point people to the One, who is greater than anything—Jesus.

PRAY: Ask God to forgive you of the moments where you made things more important than Him in your life.

ACT: Evaluate your life. Is there anything more important than Jesus? If so, turn your focus back on Jesus. You’re preparing your heart to be ready to point your *one* to the One, who is greater.

DAY THE FATHER IS PLEASED

READ: Matthew 3:13–17

And a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased.”

Matthew 3:17, CSB

What a startling concept we find in these verses. We all know that baptism is a symbol of repentance and a visual illustration of dying in your old life and rising to newness in Christ’s righteousness. So, with this in mind, why is Jesus being baptized? Jesus was perfect, holy, righteous and was in no need of repentance.

John the Baptist tried to prevent Him from being baptized, but Jesus said, “Allow it for now, because this is the way for us to fulfill all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15). Jesus Christ was absolutely obedient in all aspects to the will of the Father. Everything He requires of us, He did before us. He was baptized to show His identification with the Father, and we are to be baptized to show our identification with Christ.

God the Father confirms His perfect identification with Jesus, evidenced by the Spirit descending on Him like a dove, and verbally expressing, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased” (Matthew 3:17).

It has been confirmed that Jesus is the Son of the Father. He is our perfect example in whom we are to identify ourselves. If your identification is in Christ, then you should know that the Father is well pleased.

PRAY: Take some time thanking Jesus for the work He did in making possible the way to know God the Father as our Heavenly Father.

ACT: If you’re a follower of Jesus, write this statement down right now at least 10 times—“Because of Jesus, my Heavenly Father is pleased with me.” This will be important to remember while sharing the gospel with people. If they reject the gospel when you share it, your Father is not disappointed in you. In fact, He is glorified by your obedience to share.

DAY **5** BE AWARE OF THE ENEMY

READ: Luke 4:1–13

**But Jesus answered him, “It is written: Man must not live on bread alone.”
Luke 4:4, CSB**

One of the smartest marketing schemes I have ever fallen victim to happened at an amusement park. While waiting in line for two hours to ride a popular roller-coaster in 100-degree weather, I came face to face with what my heart and soul desired. Right in front of my eyes was this huge metal trough full of ice-cold bottled water. My shirt was drenched from sweat, and my mouth was dry, but these problems could all be tamed with this five-dollar bottled water. Needless to say, I gave in to the temptation and bought one of the most expensive bottled waters imaginable!

Jesus had been in the hot, dry and treacherous desert for 40 days. You can imagine how hungry, thirsty and exhausted He must have been. Since Jesus was extremely hungry, it was only fitting for Satan to tempt Him to turn stones into bread. However, Jesus refused to give into the tempter. He knew that His obligation to please the Father was more important than pleasing His flesh.

Jesus was hungry, so Satan tempted Him with food. Satan knows our weaknesses, so it only makes sense for him to tempt us with the things that we desire. If you struggle with lust, Satan probably isn't going to lure you with gossip. If you struggle with gossiping, he is not going to waste his time tempting you with alcohol.

PRAY: Ask God to protect your heart and mind from the schemes of the enemy. Also, ask Him to give you the strength and faith to walk away from temptation when it comes your way.

ACT: Know your weaknesses and be ready to combat Satan in those areas before he ever tempts you. Today, start memorizing Scripture that applies to the things you struggle with. Your *one* will have a hard time listening to you if your lifestyle doesn't look any different than theirs.

DAY LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

READ: Matthew 5:13–16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16, CSB

There are many Christians who believe that they are to separate themselves from the world completely. They feel that the more they hide themselves, the more spiritual they become. There are also many who purposely do not have any contact with the outside world. In fact, many churches have come to adopt this same mentality. They want their same small group of people in the church, and they don't want anyone coming in who is different. Church has become a private little club to them. However, Jesus taught that we are not to separate ourselves from the world. We are to engage and influence our country and the towns we live in.

Jesus implored His followers to be salt and light. Light breaks darkness and attracts those who are in need of seeing. Jesus told His listeners not to hide their light in shame. We need followers of Christ who are not scared to have God shine through them so brightly that they affect the world around them.

PRAY: Thank Jesus for being the Light of the World. Ask Him to daily shine through you as you go out to be a light for others, so they may see God's glory through you.

ACT: Write down some practical ways that you can allow God to shine through you while you're around your *one*, so they may be drawn to the Light of the World.

DAY **7** LIVE DIFFERENTLY

READ: Matthew 5:21–48

**Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.
Matthew 5:48, CSB**

Right in the middle of His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus calls for His followers to act totally different from the rest of the world. He calls them to act in ways that contradict the natural tendencies of our human nature.

Today let's look at Jesus' revolutionary ideas:

- Be the one to initiate in reconciling a broken relationship (v.21–26).
- Do not even think about committing sin. Intentionally avoid all sinful situations (v.27–30).
- Do not go back on your word. If you make a commitment, then keep it (v.33–37).
- Go above and beyond what people expect from you. Don't settle for mediocrity when helping others (v.38–42).
- Love your enemies. Do good to those who persecute you and pray for those who intentionally hurt you (v.43–48).

Jesus asks us to live completely opposite to that which is normal or comfortable for us. This is undoubtedly a very difficult lifestyle, but it is exactly what will attract the attention of a lost world. Let's blow some minds for Christ's sake by putting these truths into practice!

PRAY: Ask God to show you areas of your life where you need to trust Him and live differently. Ask Him for the strength to walk in obedience to what He shows you.

ACT: Take the time to think about what truths from above you can put into practice every day of your life starting today. Let your *one* see something different in you. When they ask you about it, the Holy Spirit is opening a door to point them to Jesus.

DAY 8 FOCUS ON WHAT MATTERS

READ: Matthew 6:19–24

But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal.

Matthew 6:20, CSB

What would you do if I offered you a piece of candy, then I opened the wrapper, took out the candy and gave you the empty wrapper, while keeping the candy for myself? Even though the wrapper is really attractive and colorful, you would most likely say in a frustrated tone, “Hey! Thanks for nothing, man!”

Jesus teaches us a valuable lesson here in Matthew 6:19–24. He tells us plainly that God wants what is on the inside as well. Many people spend their whole lives trying to make their wrappers as attractive and colorful as possible, while neglecting to focus on what really matters—our soul. The American Dream is a trap of investing your entire life into striving after the best house, the best car, the best clothes, the best-looking spouse, etc.

How sad the day will be for someone to appear in front of God trying to present Him with an empty wrapper. Put your time, energies, and devotion into what is on the inside. Realize that your “wrapper” stays here while your soul and spirit goes on!

PRAY: Ask God to reveal to you what you're focusing on the most. Is it your wrapper or what's on the inside? Plead with Him to give you a passion to focus on what matters.

ACT: Focus today on what you are preparing to take before God. Focusing on the Spirit to prepare your heart, mind and soul makes you a more effective witness for Him. Share the gospel with your *one* out of the overflow of your own worship of Jesus.

DAY TELL YOUR STORY

READ: Matthew 7:1–12

Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 7:12, CSB

Before I was truly saved, I was a very religious person. That sounds kind of weird, doesn't it? Can you be religious and not be born again? Of course, you can! I went to church, read my Bible every once in a while and was a leader in my church youth group. I would get drunk with friends on Saturday night and teach Sunday school the next morning with a hangover. There was no way I could have an effect on leading my lost friends to Jesus when I acted no differently than they did. I later found out that I truly didn't know Him for myself.

In the beginning of Matthew 7, Jesus issues a challenge to those who are trying to lead in spiritual matters. He asks, "How are you going to teach someone in righteousness or lead them to God when you are just as lost as they are?" He then teaches us that we must have a right relationship with Him, and we are to lead others by example.

I am now saved, serve with the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and have opportunities to preach and share the gospel all over the nation. One thing I have learned is that I cannot expect anything from others if my own relationship with Christ is not in order. I also won't have an effect on the spiritually lost if my life is not distinctly different from their lives. Basically, you can't give away something that you don't have yourself. Do you personally know Jesus?

PRAY: Reflect and ask God, "Do I really belong to You?" If the answer is "no," right now, pray to Christ and surrender your life to Him. Romans 10:9 is a great verse to help.

ACT: If you already belong to Jesus, share your story by video recording your testimony in 60-seconds or less. Tell who you were before you met Jesus, how you met Jesus and who you are now because of Jesus. Post that on all your social media platforms and be sure to hashtag #WhosYour1.

DAY 10 JESUS IS OUR GREAT NEED

READ: Luke 7:18–35

To what then should I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like?

Luke 7:31, CSB

See if you can relate to this scenario:

Person 1: “Are you hungry?”

Person 2: “Yes, I am.”

Person 1: “What are you hungry for?”

Person 2: “It doesn’t matter. I will eat anything.”

Person 1: “How about hamburgers?”

Person 2: “No, not hamburgers. Anything but hamburgers.”

Person 1: “Ok, how about pizza?”

Person 2: “No, not pizza either!”

We’ve all been involved in situations like this! Often, we know we want something, but we’re just not sure what it is. Many times, we know that we need change, but we don’t like the answers to our problems.

What did Jesus have to say about His generation? He pretty much tells them that they have no idea what they want. He said, “For John the Baptist did not come eating bread or drinking wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon!’ The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’” (Luke 7:33–34)!

Often, we come across people who are exactly the same way as these Pharisees were. In fact, you may have been like this many times in your life. Your *one* may know that they have a certain problem—they may even want to be set free from it—but they don’t like the answer to the problem or what it takes to overcome it.

PRAY: Spend some time praying and thanking God that He is exactly what you need. He is the answer. He is our hope.

ACT: Start making a plan on how you’re going to have a gospel conversation with your *one*. Remember, just like Jesus is your greatest need; He is also their greatest need.

DAY 11 TELL ABOUT THE ALL-POWERFUL ONE

READ: Mark 2:1–12

Immediately he got up, took the mat, and went out in front of everyone. As a result, they were all astounded and gave glory to God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

Mark 2:12, CSB

Have you ever heard the old adage, “Actions speak louder than words?” I know personally that if someone tells me they can do something, that’s fine, but I want to see them do it.

Jesus was faced with this challenge constantly. However, unlike us, He was able to do what He said He could do every single time without fail.

In Mark 2, Jesus literally has a paralyzed man dropped through the roof into His lap. Knowing that the man’s spiritual sickness was of more importance than his physical condition, Christ decided to heal his soul first. Jesus said, “Son, your sins are forgiven” (v.5). However, the scribes within the crowd responded in their hearts, “Who can forgive sins but God alone” (v.7)?

Then, the Son of God did something that provided action to His ability to forgive sins. What He did showed the crowd a miracle that they could see, so that they could believe in His ability to perform miracles that they couldn’t see. “Immediately he got up, took the mat, and went out in front of everyone. As a result, they were all astounded and gave glory to God, saying, ‘We have never seen anything like this’” (v.12)!

God is truly all-powerful. When He makes a promise, He has the power to see it through.

PRAY: Pray for the all-powerful God to open up the heart of your *one* to receive Him, so that He will forgive their sins.

ACT: Write down several ways that God has shown His power to you. Know that when you share the gospel, you’re sharing about the all-powerful God.

DAY 12

JESUS IS THE GREAT PHYSICIAN

READ: Matthew 9:9–13

Now when he heard this, he said, “It is not those who are well who need a doctor, but those who are sick.”

Matthew 9:12, CSB

Do you know anyone who is super stubborn when it comes to going to the doctor? They could be “sick as a dog” and suffering with extreme pain, but they will not see a doctor. It can be aggravating—they know they’re sick. They know that they need help, but they still refuse to go to someone who can help.

Jesus came into a world full of sick people. He said, “For I didn’t come to call the righteous, but sinners” (Matthew 9:13). Then, in Romans 3:10, it says, “There is no one righteous, not even one.” The truth is that everyone has been infected with a disease called “sin,” and the end result is death. Jesus is the only Physician in heaven and earth who has the cure for our disease. However, He only seeks those who are sick, realize they’re sick and want the cure. When we turn to Him as our solution, only then can we receive help from the Great Physician, Jesus Christ.

There must come a point in everyone’s life where they say, “I am sick of the disease called ‘sin,’ and I need help!” Do you think your *one* has reached that point? Do they realize that they’re sick, or are they still refusing the cure?

PRAY: Ask God to reveal to your *one* that sin has made them spiritually sick. Ask Him to make them sick of being sick, so they will be ready to believe in the Great Physician—Jesus.

ACT: Call, text or DM your *one* today, and ask, “How are you doing today?” Ask, “How can I pray for you?” If they open the door by mentioning a struggle, obediently walk through that door of opportunity by pointing them to the Great Physician—Jesus.

DAY 13

THERE IS ONLY ONE WORTHY OF WORSHIP

READ: Mark 2:23–28

**So then, the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.
Mark 2:28, CSB**

Have you ever heard the saying, “Too much of a good thing can be unhealthy?” Sometimes, this old proverb can be very true. For instance, salt is good, but an excess amount can be unhealthy. We know ice cream is good in moderation, but too much can cause you to have to shop for new jeans.

A “good thing” can also be very dangerous when it’s used in a wrong or legalistic way. Many times, as Christians, we fall prey to worshiping instruments used in praising God instead of God Himself. There are times when we are guilty of worshiping styles more than worshiping the Savior and care more about preferences than we do the Prince of Peace.

In Mark 2:23–28, the Pharisees approached Jesus because His disciples had plucked some grain on the Sabbath day. The Pharisees had become so legalistic that they had turned the Sabbath day into a burdensome kind of straight jacket. Jesus told the Pharisees that the Sabbath is not a day created for its own sake, but it is a gift from God as a day of rest to meditate and worship Him.

Have you found yourself relying on the instruments of God for worship more than God Himself? If you feel you cannot worship God because of certain ministry styles, repent of that today! Realize that music, church and ministry styles are ultimately just instruments and gifts of God used to worship Him.

PRAY: Ask God to always protect your heart from making idols out of things that are intended to help you worship the one true God.

ACT: Make a list of 10 reasons why Jesus is the only One worthy of your worship. You’ll be most effective at evangelism when you do it from the overflow of your own worship of Jesus.

DAY 14 OUR GLORIOUS TREASURE

READ: Matthew 13:44–46

When he found one priceless pearl, he went and sold everything he had and bought it.

Matthew 13:46, CSB

While I was in junior high, my hobbies were playing football and collecting sports cards. My favorite team was the Miami Dolphins, and my favorite player was Dan Marino. I tried to get every Dan Marino football card. After a couple of years, I built up a glorious collection of those cards. I was very proud of my display, until one day I came across a Dan Marino card I did not have. It was the rookie card, and my collection was worthless without it. I traded nearly every football card I had for that Marino rookie card—I had to have it!

In these two parables, Jesus is comparing the kingdom of heaven to two treasures. The first parable compares the kingdom of heaven to a treasure found in a field. The man who found it sold everything he had to buy the field, so he could have the valuable treasure. The second parable compares the kingdom of heaven to a pearl of great price. The pearl merchant also sells all he has to buy this great pearl.

What was Jesus saying in these two parables? Receiving the kingdom of God is nothing less than exchanging all that you are for all that He is. Are there things in your life you are trying to keep for yourself? You cannot hold on to the things of God and the things of this world at the same time. You must let go of one or the other. Only the kingdom of God will last forever. The things of the world are passing away. Don't let the most glorious treasure slip away for lesser corruptible disappointments.

PRAY: Thank God for who He is. Don't ask for anything. Just spend time telling God how great He is. Not because He is an egomaniac that needs to hear it—it's because we need a constant reminder that He truly is our glorious treasure.

ACT: Listen to your favorite worship song. Sing with it and worship Jesus. Then, pray for your *one* that they would begin to know and worship Jesus as their glorious treasure.

DAY 15

DON'T BE DISTRACTED BY PEER PRESSURE

READ: Mark 6:14–29

Although the king was deeply distressed, because of his oaths and the guests he did not want to refuse her.

Mark 6:26, CSB

I was once talking to a group of high school boys in a question/answer type setting. I asked them, “What is the hardest thing to deal with while being in high school?” Out of a group of 20, eighteen of them said peer pressure was the hardest thing to deal with.

Peer pressure is a problem for young and old alike. We’ll allow people to talk us into actions that go against our better judgment. Although we may be coerced into trouble, we’re still ultimately responsible for our own actions.

In Mark 6:14–25, King Herod is first tempted by his flesh and then encouraged into action by those surrounding him. Herod knew there was something different about John the Baptist. The king knew John could possibly be a man from God. However, Herod had John the Baptist murdered because it was more important for him to keep his friends and his evil wife happy than it was for him to do what was right.

It’s amazing how often so-called “friends” will keep us from doing what is right, and ultimately, they will keep us from God. Most of the time doing the will of God means going against what the crowds want.

PRAY: Ask God for strength today to make the choice of glorifying God even if it’s not the popular thing to do. Evangelism is seldom popular, but it is always right.

ACT: Make a list of things that you get peer-pressured into that are not pleasing to God. Spend time reading that list. Those are things you need to stop doing because those are the things that distract you from the mission to which God has called you. Take practical steps to cut these things out of your life, so you can be a better witness to your *one*.

DAY 16 CALLED TO SERVE

READ: John 6:1–14

There's a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish—but what are they for so many.

John 6:9, CSB

I wonder how often people hold back their services and offerings to God because they think they are too small to make any kind of difference. How many times have you held back your talents and gifts from God's use because you thought they were insignificant? People are guilty of using their "insignificance" as an excuse for not doing anything for the kingdom of God.

The Gospel of John records an account of the Son of God feeding more than 5,000 people. Jesus and His disciples looked upon a large hungry crowd, and then He looked for someone to make an offering. A small boy decided against keeping his lunch for himself and gave it to Jesus. Jesus took the five barley loaves and the two fish, blessed them and fed the whole crowd until they were full.

Can you imagine the blessing and enjoyment the young boy received from giving his small offering to the Lord and serving others with it? What if the boy had kept his lunch for himself, either because he was selfish or because he thought it was too insignificant? He would have really missed out on a huge blessing! No offering or act of service is too small or insignificant. Use what you have for His glory and the good of others!

PRAY: Spend time thanking God for all the different ways He has served you. Now it's time to serve others. Ask Him to reveal to you a way that you can serve your *one* today.

ACT: Identify one kind thing you can do to serve your *one* today, then do it.

DAY 17

KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS

READ: Matthew 14:22–33

**Then those in the boat worshiped him and said, “Truly you are the Son of God.”
Matthew 14:33, CSB**

There is one important truth I have learned through my relationship with Christ and my service in the ministry. When my eyes are on Christ, I can do things that are unexplainable. However, when my eyes are on the circumstances around me, I will begin to sink and fall every time!

In Matthew 14:22–33, Peter had a very interesting encounter with Jesus. The disciples were out in the middle of the sea when a big storm came in. Jesus walked across the water towards the disciples. Peter recognized Jesus and asked if he could come out of the boat towards Him. Then Peter began to walk on water! I don’t know about you, but that would not be a normal everyday experience for me!

He was doing the miraculous because he was keeping his eyes on Jesus! However, when he began to notice the storms around him, Peter took his eyes off of Christ, placed them upon the turbulent waters around him and began to sink.

Many times, when the waters start raging around us, we will immediately take our eyes off of Christ and will begin to sink. I want you to see what Peter does and learn from it. He cried out to Jesus for help, and Christ pulled him up again. Then they both walked on water back to the boat.

PRAY: Thank God for all the times He has rescued you when you took your eyes off of Him. Ask Him to help you stay constantly focused on Him.

ACT: Send a text or DM to your *one* today asking them if there is anything specific you can pray for them about. Who knows? They may feel like they are drowning right now. You very well may have an opportunity today to help them turn their eyes to Jesus.

DAY 18

YOUR WORDS REVEAL YOUR HEART

READ: Matthew 15:10–20

But what comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and this defiles a person.

Matthew 15:18, CSB

I remember as a young boy playing outside a lot and getting really dirty. My mom would come to the door and yell, “Dinner is ready!” I would immediately run in and sit at the table while my hands were caked with mud from playing in the dirt. I was ready to eat! However, she would always say, “Shane, go wash your hands.” My mom didn’t want me touching the food that was going into my mouth with my dirty hands.

It’s ironic because the Pharisees of Jesus’ day had a law about washing hands, but for spiritual reasons. In Matthew 15:10–20, Jesus uses this law as a teaching principle about the inner person. As important as it is to wash your hands before putting food into your mouth, it is actually more important to realize that what comes out of your mouth can be unhealthy spiritually. Jesus said, “What goes into your mouth is soon eliminated, but what comes out of your mouth can last a lifetime because it reveals your true heart” (v.17–18).

What proceeds out of your mouth? What good is it to do all of this religious activity if your heart is full of evil? You must realize that you are judged according to the condition of your heart—not just by what you do.

How can you know what the condition of your heart is? You will find your answers in what you say. Are unclean words streaming from your mouth? How about negativity, gossip or words of anger?

PRAY: Ask God to reveal to you some possible things that come out of your mouth that aren’t pleasing to Him. Repent of those and ask God to change your heart and replace those words with ones that are pleasing to Him.

ACT: Think about the things you have said in the presence of your *one*. Is there anything you need to apologize for doing or saying? It’s hard for them to hear you talk about Jesus if they are hearing you talk about things that don’t reflect His nature.

DAY 19

WHO DO YOU SAY JESUS IS?

READ: Matthew 16:13–20

**Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”
Matthew 16:16, CSB**

Many times, while talking to people about their relationship with Jesus Christ, I will receive some very odd answers. For example, one young lady said, “All of my family members are Christians, so I am one too.” One man replied, “My wife does all the religion for our household.” A teenager I spoke with said, “I know what the Bible says about Jesus, but I like to do my own thing.” These answers may sound nice, but they’re not worth the breath it took to say them. It doesn’t matter what others say and think about Christ. Who do you think He is? You can’t live your spiritual life vicariously through someone else.

Jesus asked His disciples the very question that every single person must answer in his or her lifetime. He said to them, “But who do you say that I am” (Matthew 16:15)? Peter responded in a marvelous way! “Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’”

Every person must answer this question from Jesus, “Who do you say that I am?” At some point, every person must realize they cannot get into heaven because of what their family, friends or even pastor believes. They have to answer the question for themselves. They have to confess Him as God.

PRAY: Spend some time confessing to Jesus about who you say He is. Maybe tell Him some of your favorite titles for Him (examples: Savior, Deliverer, Bread of Life). It’s not because He needs to be reminded; it’s because you do.

ACT: Ask your *one* today through a face-to-face conversation, text or DM what they believe about Jesus. It may provide an opportunity for you to share the gospel. If not, it will at least let you know what they believe so that you can pray for them more specifically.

DAY 20

"YES, LORD" IS OUR ONLY RESPONSE

READ: Luke 18:18–27

He replied, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."

Luke 18:27, CSB

Let's say I have a house with 12 rooms, and each room has a door with a specific key to unlock it. Let's also imagine that you want to buy that house from me for a large sum of money. What if you paid me in full up front, but I only gave you six out of the 12 keys? I tell you, "Here are six of the keys, so that means you can't use the upstairs bathroom, the closet, the bedroom on the left or the downstairs washroom, etc." Without a doubt, you would say, "No way! No deal!"

Many times, we try to offer Jesus Christ the same type of deal. In Luke 18:18–27, a rich young ruler approached Jesus with the ultimate question: "Good Teacher what shall I do to inherit eternal life" (v.18)? If you continue to read, you will see that after some discussion the young ruler walked away sorrowful, because he was trying to receive eternal life on his own terms. Jesus explained that eternal life is received when you give total rule of your life to Him. Unfortunately, the young man was unwilling to do that.

Often, we approach Christ offering Him just part of our lives. You must realize that He doesn't want part, He wants all of you. I am sure you've heard the adage, "He can't be Lord at all, unless He is Lord of all!" Once we say, "Yes" to Jesus for salvation, "Yes" is the only answer we can ever give Him again.

PRAY: Ask God, "What keys of my life am I still holding on to today?" Allow Him to unlock those doors and clean out the mess. Give Him total ownership of your house. It's difficult to share with others about surrendering to Jesus if you are still holding on to things yourself.

ACT: Salvation is not possible based on what we do; it is only possible because of what God has done. It is a true miracle. Write down at least five miracles in the Bible that were impossible for people but were possible for God. Let these be a reminder that He has the ability to save your *one*.

DAY 21

LOVE GOD; LOVE PEOPLE

READ: Matthew 22:32–40

He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

Matthew 22:37, CSB

If you had the opportunity to ask Jesus something face to face, what would you ask? I would ask, “Jesus, would You sum up the whole Bible in one or two statements for me? What does Christianity really mean? Would You tell me the purpose of all that goes on in the world and what I’m supposed to do?”

In Matthew 22:36–39, a lawyer asked Jesus one question: “Teacher, which command in the law is greatest?” Jesus responded with two commandments that coincided with one another. “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Jesus explained that all the laws and everything that the prophets taught hung on loving God and loving one another. You can’t have one without the other. Loving God with all your being will cause His love to overflow from within you to other people, because this is precisely how He loves.

You can’t really love other people unless you sincerely love God. True love comes from God. “Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God” (1 John 4:7). On the other hand, if you have a hard time getting along with people and showing love to your neighbor, then you must check your love for God. “If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ and yet hates his brother or sister, he is a liar. For the person who does not love his brother or sister whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen” (1 John 4:20).

PRAY: Ask God to give you an overflowing love for Him and for others. You’ll be more effective at sharing Jesus and loving others when you do it out of the overflow of your love for God.

ACT: Make a list of people in your life who love God and love you well. You have been blessed; now be a blessing to your *one* by loving them in a way that they can see the love of God through you.

DAY 22

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF JESUS

READ: Luke 22:14–20

In the same way he also took the cup after supper and said, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”

Luke 22:20, CSB

Have you ever wondered why we do an ordinance at church called the Lord’s Supper or Communion? I remember as a teenager doing the Lord’s Supper at church and not really understanding what it was all about. I thought the remembrance was just a nice gesture the church was making once a month to give you a light snack before the after-church buffet. However, I did not realize the significance of the Lord’s Supper and the dangers of partaking of it with the wrong attitude.

The breaking of the bread is a symbol of Christ’s body being broken and bruised when He took our place on the Cross (see Luke 22:19). The drinking of the cup is a symbol of Christ’s blood that was shed to wash away our sins and transgressions (see Luke 22:20). It also establishes a new covenant with the assurance of forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit (see Jeremiah 31:31–34).

The believer is to observe the remembrance of the Lord’s Supper until Christ returns (see 1 Corinthians 11:26). We also need to realize that believers are held under strict accountability in the way they partake of it. The Lord’s Supper is a great time to reconcile any broken relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ. It’s also a call to sincerely repent of secret sin prior to partaking in the ordinance. Lastly, it’s only for those who have trusted in Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

PRAY: Take a few moments to reflect on Jesus’ body being broken for you and His blood being shed for you. Then, thank Him for the act of perfect love. May we never forget.

ACT: Take the time to read 1 Corinthians 11:26–32. Jot down some things that stand out to you. The next time you partake in the Lord’s Supper, do it with clean hands and a pure heart. This is yet another important form of worshiping Jesus that your *one* is missing. Pray that they would know Jesus, so they can participate in this very important ordinance.

DAY 23

THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE

READ: John 14:1–7

Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 14:6, CSB

I’m married and a father of five wonderful children, and I feel like I am really just now beginning to truly value the help and advice of those who are wiser than me. I also realize that the moment I stop learning will be the moment that I stop growing spiritually, mentally and emotionally. It’s very mature to follow people who know the way of life, who know important truths about it and who can help you live a healthy life both physically and spiritually.

In John 14:6, we read one of the clearest declarations from God the Son: “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” This is a very beautiful declaration by Jesus Christ. He doesn’t just help you or teach you, but He is the Way, He is Life and He is Truth. Jesus is not just a good way to God or one of several ways to Him, but He is in fact the only way to the Father, because He is the only One who has perfect communion with God the Father.

Jesus is the Way that leads to life eternal; all other paths lead to death and destruction. He is the Life, and anything outside of Him is death. Jesus Christ is the Truth, and everything outside of Him is a lie. He is all and all, and He demands to be all and all in you. You must realize that He has to possess all of you, and you can’t hold on to anything. When you believe this, then you have the ability to be used in extraordinary ways!

PRAY: Take the time to truthfully answer these questions: Is Jesus the Way that I follow? Is He my Truth? Is He my Life? You have to truly believe this and live this yourself if you want to effectively share it with others.

ACT: Write this statement down 14 times in honor of John 14; “I believe Jesus is the only Way.” You have to daily settle this in your own heart. It’s hard to share with someone else if you’re struggling in your belief about who Jesus is.

DAY 24

JESUS IS PRAYING FOR YOU

READ: John 17:20–26

I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their word.
John 17:20, CSB

I love to hear people tell me with a sincere heart, “I want you to know I am praying for you.” There have been several instances in my life where I have felt God’s hand heavily guiding me because of the prayers of loved ones. I don’t understand fully how the prayers of the saints and the sovereignty of God fit together, but I know when God’s people pray, something special happens.

In John 17, Jesus is praying to His Father about several things, but one request that Christ makes really stands out to me. “I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their word” (John 17:20). This verse is exciting because if you have experienced the salvation Christ alone gives, then that means Jesus is praying for you!

It’s always wonderful to have people who love you praying for you, but how much more powerful is it to have Jesus Christ, the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings, praying for you? Realize that every morning you step out of bed, you are about to engage in an adventure called “everyday life.” Sometimes life can be exciting, and sometimes it can be frightening. However, you can have the assurance of knowing if you’re a child of God, He has already prayed for you.

PRAY: Take time in silence today to reflect on the truth that Jesus is praying for you. It should encourage us and empower us to have absolute confidence to tell our *one* about Him.

ACT: Pray for your *one* today. Pray they would come to know personally the Savior who cares so much about us that He prays for us. Be sure you’re praying every day for your *one*.

DAY 25

WHAT GOD DID FOR ALL OF US

READ: Mark 15:22–34

And at three Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lemá ‘ ‘sabachtháni?” which is translated, “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”
Mark 15:34, CSB

While Jesus of Nazareth was hanging on the cross He spoke seven statements. One of the statements was, “‘Eloi, Eloi, lemá ‘ ‘sabachtháni?’ which is translated, “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me” (Mark 15:34)?

This statement is probably the most difficult of the seven He spoke while being crucified. It’s really beyond human comprehension to understand this cry fully. Our finite minds can’t grasp everything that took place while Jesus hung on the cross, but we know from Scripture that “He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

While Jesus was on the cross, He bore every sin, every evil deed, every rebellious act and thought by every person who had ever lived before, who was living at the time and who would ever live in the future! While Jesus Christ was on the cross, He was in utter agony while He experienced for us the very essence of Hell, which ultimately is separation from God.

This is what was going on when Jesus cried out, “My God, My God, why have You abandoned Me?” God the Father had turned His back on God the Son because of our sin. When you realize that we only serve ONE God, then you understand that God was punishing Himself on our behalf! What an awesome, magnificent and splendid God He is!

PRAY: Thank God for the great depths He went through to rescue you—and your *one*. Reflect on His great and perfect love.

ACT: Visit WhosYourOne.com again. Look at the map. Notice there are thousands upon thousands of *ones* on there. Those lights all represent souls who God desperately loves. Let that sink into your mind and heart today.

DAY **26** TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE

READ: Luke 23:3–43

**And he said to him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”
Luke 23:43, CSB**

This text of Scripture is one of the best known out of all four gospels. There are several points that really jump out of the text and grab your attention when you read it. Jesus is declared innocent by one of the thieves: “We are punished justly, because we’re getting back what we deserve for the things we did, but this man has done nothing wrong (Luke 23:41).” Also, Jesus makes a promise to the one thief that God’s saving grace is immediate upon repentance and belief: “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43).

However, I want to focus on one other truth from this section of Scripture. There were two thieves—one who continued to mock Jesus in unbelief and the other who realized this man was not like them. One thief realized Jesus was Lord and acknowledged him as his Lord. This thief was promised Paradise, and the fear of death was released from him because of that promise. But the other thief who refused to recognize Him as Lord and continued to mock Him ultimately died and was separated eternally from this Paradise the other man had received!

This truth is an exact picture of every man and woman in the world. There are 7.7 billion people in the world today, and yet there are only two kinds of people—those who recognize Jesus as Lord and those who refuse to acknowledge Him as Lord. There is no middle road! When it comes to Christ’s Lordship, there is no gray area! You’re either a follower of Jesus, or you’re not.

PRAY: Spend a moment with a thankful heart that you’re in the family of God. Then, spend some moments praying with a broken heart for your *one*, who is not. However, be hopeful, because they can be.

ACT: Today, text, call or DM your *one*. Specifically, ask them when there can be a time to meet in person or over FaceTime. This meeting will be for you to have a gospel conversation with them. Urgency is the key word for today.

DAY 27

THE PRICE WAS FULLY PAID

READ: Matthew 27:57–66

...and placed it in his new tomb, which he had cut into the rock. He left after rolling a great stone against the entrance of the tomb.

Matthew 27:60, CSB

There is a ridiculous theory out there that teaches that Jesus Christ never really died while He was on the cross. Some scholars say that Jesus was just in a comatose state, and the people were fooled into believing He was actually dead. While He was buried in the tomb, the cool damp air revived Him and brought Him out of the coma. Their theory is that Jesus never really rose from the dead; He just awoke out of a coma.

In today's text, we see the written facts of Jesus' death. Don't forget how the Roman soldiers made sure that Jesus was dead by piercing His side with a spear (see John 19:34). Christ had been pronounced dead, and Joseph of Arimathea went to ask Pilate for Jesus' body so that he could give Him a proper burial. The Son of God fully and completely died while He was on the cross.

The fact that Jesus was actually buried became an integral part of the gospel proclamation (see 1 Corinthians 15:4). Jesus did nothing short of giving all He had on our behalf. His death was the perfect sacrifice and payment for our sin. Don't let false theories detract from the beauty of a Savior who died so you wouldn't have to! He gave His all so sinners could be rescued.

PRAY: Take time to pray in silence today. Close your eyes and try to imagine the journey of Jesus carrying the cross, enduring the beatings and hanging on the cross until He gave up His last breath. Know that was out of love for both you and the ones with whom you're sharing the gospel.

ACT: If you are feeling uncomfortable with sharing the gospel, practice doing so with another believer or just aloud to yourself. Practicing what you're saying will help build confidence in what you're saying. Visit WhosYourOne.com for some great resources to help you.

DAY 28 JESUS SAVED YOU TO SEND YOU

READ: John 21:1–17

He asked him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved that he asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.”

John 21:17, CSB

Have you ever felt as though you messed up so bad that God could no longer use you? If you have had a relationship with Christ for any significant length of time, then there’s a good possibility that you’ve felt like this at one point. Peter experienced a feeling of uselessness after he denied knowing Jesus three times. However, Jesus knew that He could still use Peter, and He wanted to restore him.

In John 21:1–17, Peter had gone back to fishing after his huge failure. He felt that God was finished with him. God had a different plan, though. In this section of Scripture, Jesus asks Peter three times, “Do you love Me?” Peter’s third response was much different from when he boasted before—when he said that he would never deny Jesus (see Matthew 26:35). This time, however, Peter says, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You” (John 21:17).

Peter’s heart had changed, and the Lord knew it, so He restored him that day. Simon Peter went from boasting that he knew all to confessing that Jesus knew all. His love for Jesus opened the door for him to be used once again.

PRAY: Thank God for His amazing grace. Thank Him that He is not done with you. Ask Him to constantly remind you that you are no longer defined by your past mistakes; you’re defined by who He says you are.

ACT: Reflect on God’s grace. Let that build confidence in you to be able to share the gospel with boldness and humility. The important truth to remember today is Jesus knows your heart. You should never feel like God can no longer use you. He can still use and restore you. Use those mistakes as your testimony of what God has done in your life. Share that grace with your *one*.

DAY 29 YOUR KING IS ALIVE

READ: Mark 16:1–13

“Don’t be alarmed,” he told them. “You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they put him.”

Mark 16:6, CSB

I will never forget being in my early twenties hearing my pastor talk about his trip to Israel. He told us how he walked around and saw many of the sites detailed in the gospels. He also talked about traveling down the same road that they believed Jesus had walked before His crucifixion. Then my pastor spoke about the highlight of the tour. He went into the tomb where it is believed that Jesus was buried after His crucifixion. I remember vividly how my pastor spoke with tears in his eyes: “The most beautiful part of the tomb was that it was empty!”

The resurrection is the crux and climax of our faith. “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins” (1 Corinthians 15:17). The fact that the tomb is empty gives us validation for our faith, and it promises that those who have repented and put their trust in Christ are forgiven of their sins.

Mark 16:1–13 is a beautiful account by John Mark about Jesus’ resurrection. He is risen! He is not there! Rest assured today that you do not follow after a dead man, but a Risen King!

Think about it. The stone was not rolled away from the tomb so Jesus could get out. The stone was removed so we could see inside the tomb and see that it was empty!

PRAY: Pray for your *one* right now. Pray they would begin to worship and follow Jesus, the Risen King. Ask the Holy Spirit to open their hearts to this truth.

ACT: Take time to write down or type out all the Scriptures in the New Testament that talk about the resurrection of Jesus. It may take a little effort to do this, but it will be worth it. Let them be a reminder that when you share the gospel, you’re not talking about some dead false god. You’re talking about a living God that was victorious over death!

DAY **30** TIME TO GO

READ: Matthew 28:16–20

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19, CSB

Jesus had already risen from the dead, and in these verses He calls His followers to a high and holy calling known as The Great Commission. Today, let's focus on some challenging and reassuring truths from this calling given to every believer. A lot of people think that being a member of God's church is just sitting in the same pew every week watching the pastor and church staff do all the ministry.

However, every believer is called to evangelism, discipleship and to teaching others about the greatness of the Risen King, Jesus. Every follower of Jesus is called to:

1. Evangelize: Go
2. Mentor: make disciples
3. Get out of our church walls: of all the nations
4. Bring people into our fellowship: baptizing
5. Teach the Bible: teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you
6. Realize we don't have to do all the work alone: I am with you always
7. Know He will be with us forever: to the end of the age

There are five challenges from the above list (1–5) and two reassurances (6–7) given to us by Jesus Christ. As a child of God, are you participating and practicing these challenges, or are you just sitting in the pews? If you are putting these challenges into practice, are you placing your trust in these two reassurances, or are you relying on your own strength?

PRAY: Thank God for using this time over the last 30-days to turn your focus to Great Commission action. Also, thank Him for reminding you that you are not alone in this work! He is with you.

ACT: Remember, if you have the Holy Spirit, you may be the next generation, but you are the church of today. You are called to the Great Commission now. Tell your *one* about Jesus. Encourage your friends to have a *one*, too.



So, what now?

I pray this devotional has been a blessing to you. I have enjoyed taking this journey with you. Allow me to encourage you to continue your daily quiet time with God. He is infinitely good, and I hope you've enjoyed His goodness as He met with you over these last 30-days.

If you haven't already, now is the time to share the gospel with your *one*. As you share with your *one*, I pray God will begin transforming their heart and mind to turn to Him in repentance and faith.

If your *one* comes to know the Lord, rejoice with them! Share with them how "angels are rejoicing in their decision to follow Jesus" (see Luke 15:10).

If they haven't already been attending church with you, invite them to start attending a church that teaches the Bible and will help them grow in their faith. Also, spend time with them, and help them understand the necessity of knowing God through His Word, prayer and being around God's people. Stress the importance of being baptized as a testimony to others of the trust they have placed in Christ.

Now is the time to find another spiritually lost person to become your new *one* and disciple your previous *one* to also have a *one* who they begin to pray for, invest in and with whom they will share the gospel. You never stop doing this until Jesus calls you home or until the whole world hears about Him.

We'd love to hear from you. Tell us how this devotional has impacted your life. Also, we want to hear any praises of people surrendering to Jesus because of your faithfulness to share the gospel with them.

Email us at evangelism@namb.net

In Christ,

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