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Day 1:

The Compassionate Shepherd

Devotional

In a world that often prioritizes productivity and efficiency, Jesus shows us a different way. When He and His disciples sought rest after exhausting ministry, they were met by crowds who had tracked them down. Instead of turning them away, Jesus responded with deep compassion. He saw beyond their intrusion to their deeper need—they were "sheep without a shepherd." This image is powerful. Sheep without a shepherd are vulnerable, lost, and unable to find what they need to survive. They wander aimlessly, in danger from predators and their own poor decisions. Jesus recognized this spiritual condition in the crowds, and His heart was moved. Despite His own exhaustion, Jesus chose to shepherd these lost people. He taught them, fed their souls with truth, and later would miraculously feed their bodies. His compassion wasn't just a feeling—it moved Him to action, even at personal cost. When we encounter people who interrupt our plans or seem demanding, do we see them as Jesus did? Do we recognize that behind difficult behaviors often lies a soul without a shepherd—someone who is lost, vulnerable, and searching for what only Jesus can provide?

Bible Verse

"When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things." - Mark 6:34

Reflection Question

When have you felt like a sheep without a shepherd in your own life, and how did Jesus meet you in that place? How might this perspective change how you view difficult people in your life?

Quote "Jesus looks at these people and he feels sorry for them. And he's upset, but he just hurts for them. They should have a shepherd, but they don't."

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for being my Good Shepherd. Help me to see others through your compassionate eyes, recognizing the lost and vulnerable state of those without a shepherd. Give me your heart of compassion that moves beyond feelings to loving action. Amen.

Day 2:

Faith in Action

Devotional

When the disciples suggested sending the hungry crowd away to find food, Jesus gave them a seemingly impossible command: "You give them something to eat." Their response was predictable—we don't have enough! Five small rolls and two fish couldn't possibly feed thousands of people. Yet Jesus wasn't asking them to solve the problem with their own resources. He was inviting them to participate in His miracle by offering what little they had in faith. True faith isn't just intellectual belief or emotional feeling—it's trust that leads to action. The disciples had to physically take those meager provisions, organize the crowd into groups,

and begin distributing food that logically should have run out immediately. They had to risk looking foolish, all while trusting that Jesus would somehow multiply their offering. This is what faith looks like in our lives too. It's not just believing God can do something; it's acting as if He will. It's offering our "five loaves and two fish"—our seemingly inadequate resources, talents, time, or abilities—and trusting Him to multiply them beyond what we could imagine.

Bible Verse

"Then the Lord said to Moses, 'I will rain down bread from heaven for you.'" - Exodus 16:4

Reflection Question

What "five loaves and two fish" is God asking you to offer Him in faith right now? What step of obedience seems illogical but might be an invitation to participate in God's miracle?

Quote "What is faith? Faith is hope and trust in action. In action being the key there. It's not just sitting around thinking about things. It's not knowing factual information about things. It's hanging everything you have on something to the point that it causes you to act."

Prayer

Father, forgive me for the times I've held back because what I have seems too small to matter. Help me to offer everything to You in faith, trusting that You can multiply it beyond my imagination. Give me courage to take steps of obedience even when they don't make logical sense. Amen.

Day 3:

The Miracle of Multiplication

Devotional

Five small rolls. Two fish. Thousands of hungry people. The math simply doesn't work—except in the hands of Jesus. When the disciples gave Jesus their meager provisions, something extraordinary happened. As Jesus broke the bread and gave thanks, the food multiplied. Everyone ate until satisfied, with twelve baskets of leftovers remaining! This wasn't just a slight stretching of resources; it was supernatural abundance from almost nothing. This miracle reveals a profound spiritual principle: Jesus can do more with what we surrender to Him than we could ever accomplish on our own. Our talents, time, resources, and efforts—when given to Jesus in faith—become exponentially more effective than if we tried to manage them ourselves. The key is surrender. The disciples had to physically hand over the bread and fish. They had to release their grip on what seemed insufficient and trust Jesus to work through their offering. Similarly, we must release our tight grip on our resources, acknowledging they belong to Jesus anyway, and trust Him to multiply their impact for His kingdom. What might Jesus do with your "not enough" if you placed it in His hands today?

Bible Verse

"He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD." - Deuteronomy 8:3

Reflection Question

What area of your life feels most like "not enough" right now? How might surrendering this area completely to Jesus change your perspective and allow Him to work in ways you haven't imagined?

Quote "Jesus can do more with what you give him in faith. You're nothing than you could ever do, keeping it and hoarding it and doing it on your own."

Prayer

Jesus, I confess I often hold tightly to what I have, fearing it's not enough. Today I open my hands and offer You everything—my time, talents, resources, and dreams. Multiply them according to Your purposes. Help me trust that You can do infinitely more with my surrender than I could ever do through my own efforts. Amen.

Day 4:

Risking Humiliation

Devotional

Imagine being one of the disciples when Jesus commanded them to organize thousands of hungry people into groups to receive food—when all they had were five rolls and two fish. Can you feel the potential for humiliation? What if the food ran out after the first few people? What if the crowd became angry? What if they looked foolish? Yet they obeyed, risking public failure and embarrassment because Jesus asked them to. This reveals another crucial aspect of faith: it often requires us to risk humiliation. Faith means taking action that could make us look foolish if God doesn't come through as we believe He will. In our image-conscious culture, this may be one of the greatest barriers to living by faith. We don't want to look naive, irrational, or foolish. We want guarantees before we step out. But faith, by definition, moves without complete certainty, trusting God's character and promises more than visible evidence. The disciples' willingness to risk humiliation opened the door for one of Jesus' most spectacular miracles. What miracle might God be waiting to perform through your willingness to risk looking foolish for His sake?

Bible Verse

"The Israelites ate manna forty years, until they came to a land that was settled; they ate manna until they reached the border of Canaan." - Exodus 16:35

Reflection Question

What step of faith is God asking you to take that feels risky or potentially embarrassing? What fears of humiliation might be holding you back from full obedience?

Quote "Faith organizes the crowd into hundreds and fifties, even when humiliation seems to be the only outcome. Faith acts even when it seems like the only way this is going is directly towards humiliation."

Prayer

Lord, I confess my fear of looking foolish often holds me back from stepping out in faith. Give me courage to value Your approval more than human opinion. Help me embrace humility and be willing to risk humiliation for the sake of Your kingdom. I want to be part of the miracles You want to perform. Amen.

Day 5:

The Bread of Life

Devotional

The miracle of feeding thousands with five loaves and two fish wasn't just about satisfying physical hunger. It was a sign pointing to Jesus' true identity and mission. Just as God provided manna for Israel in the wilderness, Jesus provided bread in a desolate place. But He was revealing Himself as something greater—the true Bread of Life who satisfies our deepest spiritual hunger. Physical bread sustains life temporarily; Jesus offers eternal life. Physical bread must be consumed daily; Jesus offers lasting satisfaction. Physical bread nourishes the body; Jesus nourishes the soul. This miracle invites us to examine our own hunger. We often try to satisfy our deepest needs with things that can never truly fill us—success, relationships, possessions, experiences. Like sheep without a shepherd, we wander from one temporary satisfaction to another, never finding what our souls truly crave. Jesus offers Himself as the answer to our deepest hunger. He is the Good Shepherd who leads us to true satisfaction. He is the Bread of Life who offers Himself freely to "whosoever will come." And unlike physical bread that is consumed and gone, Jesus offers abundance—twelve baskets of leftovers remind us that His provision always exceeds our need.

Bible Verse

"So they camped at Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees." - Exodus 15:27

Reflection Question

What are you currently trying to use to satisfy your deepest spiritual hunger? How might turning to Jesus as the Bread of Life change your pursuit of satisfaction?

Quote "Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah. What are you willing to sacrifice, suffer and serve? What you are willing to sacrifice for and suffer for and serve is what you love."

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for being the Bread of Life that truly satisfies. Forgive me for the times I've sought fulfillment in things that can never satisfy my soul's deepest hunger. I come to You today, acknowledging my need for the nourishment only You can provide. Thank You for Your abundant provision that always exceeds my needs. Amen.