



# DAILY DEVOTION

Hey, North Ridge Family! Here are this week's Daily Devos. Our hope is that you will process each of these devos according to how you can respond and love on your family and our city.

## DAY 1

### READ JOHN 12:1-8

Devoted: An earnest attachment to someone or something.

We see devotion everywhere we look: an older couple married for 60 years, teenagers at a concert, deer hunters, sports fans. A person's devotion shows you what they value. Another way we can tell what we are devoted to is what we spend our money on. Devotion is often seen when people spend money on something that someone else would not: season tickets, bass boat, newest tech, newest fashion, disc golf cart. Our money runs downhill to our values. We don't spend money on things we think are not worth it. We spend money on things we think are worth it. That makes sense to people. Maybe you donate money to a favorite charity or a cause that resonates with you.

What about God? What about expressing devotion to God? Not just with our money. For many, devotion to Jesus seems harder to come by. We believe in Jesus, but what about displaying love for Jesus in our lives, showing earnest attachment to Jesus that everyone can see. Why is it that we can easily display earnest devotion to our school, sport, hobby, or family, but that same devotion to Jesus seems harder to come by?

How can we grow our devotion to Jesus so that His value in our life is easily and naturally seen by others?



## DAY 2

### READ JOHN 12:1-8

Context: Jesus has gone back to Bethany, where, days earlier, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. Mary and Martha, Lazarus' sisters, hold a dinner in Jesus' honor. They are sitting there with raised Lazarus and with the guy who saved him. Mary already loves Jesus; now she wants to do something for Him. Imagine how you would feel, overwhelmed with gratitude, and Mary wants to show it. At dinner, she breaks open a jar and anoints Jesus' feet, wiping the excess with her hair, something only servants would do. Mary doesn't care that she is doing something that other people wouldn't do because she is devoted. She is devoted to Jesus. The gift, Nard, grew in the mountains of Northern India, smelled nice, and was very expensive to get. In fact, it was worth 300 denarii. Remember a single denarius is a single day labor's salary. It's worth a year's salary. It was extravagant, sacrificial. Mary doesn't think about it because she is devoted. Jesus matters!

Contrast this with Judas. He sees her gift and says it could have been sold and the money used for the poor. Sounds like it makes sense. If we were there, we might think so. What could we do with that money?

But Judas wants to take a cut for himself. He wants everyone to think he is on mission for Jesus, but, in reality, he is only on mission for himself. Jesus is there to help Judas get what he wants, and, later when Judas finds that Jesus can't give him what he wants, he sells Him out for 30 pieces of silver.

Two pictures: one person who is devoted to Jesus, and one who thinks he's devoted to Jesus but isn't.

So how do you know? How do you know if you are devoted to Jesus or if you are struggling with your devotion? Do you follow Jesus for His agenda or for yours?

## DAY 3

### READ EPHESIANS 2:1-3

Jesus was a means for Judas, but He was an end for Mary! Don't we struggle with this? Don't we all struggle with our devotion to Jesus. Doesn't it seem to grow cold sometimes? But let us see a path back to a life of devotion to Jesus, especially in the season we are living in now. It is easy right now to feel isolated, apathetic, flat. You don't care. Maybe that feeling has even pushed down into your walk with Jesus. Let's look at the path that Mary walked. Something to think about in the moments when our hearts grow cold.

Remind your heart of the condition you were in before you met Jesus. The condition of our heart was fatal, no way out. You may have just been going along and thought, "I'm doing pretty good. I might add Jesus to my life." But when you read the Bible, it says that you are not ok; you are bad off; not as bad as you can be, but positionally as bad off as you could be. Spiritually, we have no hope because of sin, but God steps in.

How Bad was your life before Jesus? How bad could it be?

## DAY 4

### READ ROMANS 5:6-8

Who has the greatest devotion? Obviously not Judas. Was it Mary who gave a gift worth a year's wages to Jesus? Is our devotion comparable to Mary's? Remember our money, our time, our effort, goes to where we are devoted. Mary was extravagant and sacrificial in her gift. She was devoted.

But God showed even greater devotion to us. He came to our rescue and paid an extravagant price to rescue us. God gave us the costliest gift. God paid the rescue cost. Jesus came and exhibited what it meant to be a good shepherd. He came and, in an extravagant, sacrificial way, showed us what it means to love our neighbor as ourself, to show the greater love, to exemplify the greatest devotion.

How Big was Jesus' sacrifice for you? How great a gift did Jesus give? How great is His devotion to you?

## DAY 5

### READ COLOSSIANS 1:13-14, 22

I know it can be difficult to stay up, not get down, not get stressed out, by the news, but let me remind you what our ultimate future is: "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him" - 1 Corinthians 2:9. The Bible says that because of Jesus, the Gospel, the struggles of this life cannot even compare. Do you find yourself growing cold in your devotion to Jesus, find that Jesus is more a means than an end in your life? Do you want to refocus your devotion?

Remember, Jesus came to you when you were dead like Lazarus. He gave you life. You have a new home, have been adopted into a new family, and have a new status. You have new brothers and sisters, God is your Father, you are a child of God, and you are forever forgiven. You have been bought with a price; you are free. Free from being condemned. And God will always be working for your good. God will complete His good work in you. Remember, He is not done with you. He will always be working to shape you and grow you. And you should be overwhelmed, like Mary, with gratitude and devotion for everything Jesus has done for you.

How Blessed are you by what you have in Jesus? And are you growing in love and devotion, not just because of what Jesus has done for you, but who He is for you?