



5 Day Devotional: Watch: Are You On The List?

Day 1: Am I On The List?

Devotional

Have you ever filled out important paperwork where you had to list beneficiaries? Maybe for life insurance or a retirement account? There's something both exciting and nerve-wracking about that moment when you realize someone's future depends on whether their name appears on that list. A wealthy young ruler once ran to Jesus with essentially the same question burning in his heart. Despite having everything the world said mattered - youth, wealth, and authority - he knew something was missing. His urgent question wasn't about success or happiness; it was about eternity. He wanted to know if his name was on God's list of beneficiaries. This question cuts through all our surface concerns and gets to what matters most. In our busy lives filled with work deadlines, family responsibilities, and daily pressures, we can lose sight of the eternal perspective. But deep down, most of us share this young ruler's concern: Do I know that I have eternal life? The beautiful truth is that God wants us to have this assurance. He doesn't want us living in uncertainty about our eternal destiny. The young ruler's question wasn't foolish or presumptuous - it was exactly the right question to ask. And Jesus was ready with an answer, though not the one anyone expected. Today, take comfort in knowing that your eternal security isn't left to chance or guesswork. God has made a way for you to know with certainty that your name is written in the book of life.

Bible Verse

'Repent and believe in the gospel.' - Mark 1:15

Reflection Question

What drives your deepest sense of security - is it your accomplishments, relationships, or financial stability, and how might these things be competing with your trust in God?

Prayer

Lord, thank You that You want me to have assurance about my eternal destiny. Help me to ask the right questions and seek the answers that truly matter. Give me courage to examine my heart honestly about where I'm placing my ultimate trust. Amen.

Notes

Day 2: Easier Than You Think

Devotional

Sometimes the most profound truths are surprisingly simple. When the rich young ruler approached Jesus, he likely expected a complex formula for earning eternal life. After all, he had spent years following religious rules and building an impressive moral resume. Surely eternal life required even more effort, more perfection, more achievement. But Jesus revealed the first surprising truth: eternal life is easier than we think. It doesn't come through rule-keeping, moral perfection, or religious performance. It comes through simple faith - like a child trusting their parent. Think about how children enter a family. They don't earn their place through good behavior or impressive accomplishments. They're welcomed simply because they belong. They trust completely, without questioning whether they deserve love or provision. This is the kind of simple faith Jesus calls us to have. We often complicate salvation because we struggle to believe something so wonderful could be so accessible. We think we need to clean up our lives first, or prove ourselves worthy, or understand every theological detail. But Jesus says it's simpler than that - it's about trusting Him completely. This doesn't mean faith is easy in every sense, but the entry point is beautifully simple. You don't need a perfect track record or an advanced degree in theology. You need a heart willing to trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord. The relief in this truth is overwhelming. You don't have to earn your way into God's family. You're invited to simply come home.

Bible Verse

'Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.' - Mark 10:15

Reflection Question

In what ways have you been trying to earn God's approval rather than simply receiving His grace, and what would it look like to approach Him with childlike trust?

Prayer

Father, forgive me for making salvation more complicated than You intended. Help me to receive Your grace with the simple trust of a child. Thank You that I don't have to earn my place in Your family. Amen.

Notes

Day 3: Harder Than You Think

Devotional

Just when we start to feel comfortable with how simple salvation is, Jesus reveals the second surprising truth: it's also harder than we think. Not because God makes it difficult, but because we make it complicated by holding onto things that compete with our trust in Him. When Jesus looked at the rich young ruler with love, He identified the one thing standing between this man and eternal life. It wasn't his wealth itself, but what his wealth represented - his source of security, identity, and control. Jesus was asking him to surrender the very thing he trusted most. This is where salvation becomes challenging for all of us. We must identify what we're really trusting in besides God. For some, it might be financial security, career success, or family relationships. For others, it could be personal achievements, social status, or even religious activities. These aren't necessarily bad things, but when they become our ultimate source of security, they create barriers to complete trust in Jesus. Jesus loves us too much to let us hold onto false securities. He knows that anything we depend on more than Him will ultimately disappoint us. So He calls us to surrender - not to make our lives miserable, but to free us from the burden of trusting in things that can't truly save us. The difficulty isn't in God's requirements; it's in our reluctance to let go of what we think we need to feel safe and significant.

Bible Verse

'Looking at him, Jesus loved him and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.'" - Mark 10:21

Reflection Question

What is the 'one thing' in your life that you find hardest to surrender to God, and how is holding onto it preventing you from experiencing complete freedom in Christ?

Prayer

Jesus, You know what I'm holding onto too tightly. Give me the courage to surrender whatever competes with my trust in You. Help me to see that letting go isn't loss, but freedom. I want to follow You completely. Amen.

Notes

Day 4: The Impossible Made Possible

Devotional

The disciples were stunned. If a wealthy, moral, religious young man couldn't earn eternal life, who could? Their question revealed a common assumption: that success and blessing indicate God's favor, and that salvation should be easier for 'good' people. Jesus shattered this thinking with a profound truth: 'With man it is impossible, but not with God, because all things are possible with God.' Salvation isn't about human capability - it's about divine possibility. This is incredibly freeing news. It means your eternal destiny doesn't depend on your performance, your background, or your circumstances. The wealthy struggle with self-reliance, but the poor can struggle with despair. The educated might trust in their knowledge, while the simple might feel unworthy. Every person faces the same fundamental challenge: we cannot save ourselves. But what's impossible for us is completely possible for God. He specializes in doing what we cannot do. He reaches into our impossible situations and creates new life. He takes hearts of stone and makes them hearts of flesh. He transforms rebels into children, strangers into family members. This truth should fill us with hope, not discouragement. When we realize we can't save ourselves, we're finally in position to receive what God freely offers. When we stop trying to be our own savior, we can embrace the Savior God has provided. The impossibility of self-salvation isn't bad news - it's the setup for the greatest good news ever announced.

Bible Verse

'Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.'" - Mark 10:27

Reflection Question

Where in your life are you trying to accomplish the impossible through your own strength, and how might surrendering these areas to God open up new possibilities you haven't considered?

Prayer

God, I'm grateful that my salvation doesn't depend on my ability but on Your power. Help me to stop striving in my own strength and to trust in what You can do. Make the impossible possible in my life today. Amen.

Notes

Day 5: Better Than You Can Imagine

Devotional

The story could have ended with the rich young ruler walking away sad, but Jesus reveals the most surprising truth of all: eternal life is better than we can imagine because of what He gave up for us. Jesus was the ultimate rich young ruler. He possessed infinite heavenly wealth, eternal glory, and unlimited power. Yet He chose to become poor - not just financially, but in every way that mattered. He traded the worship of angels for the mockery of crowds, divine comfort for human suffering, and heavenly riches for earthly poverty. Why would He do this? So that through His poverty, we might become rich. Not just with eternal life, but with every spiritual blessing. We receive forgiveness, adoption, purpose, hope, and an inheritance that can never fade. We gain access to God's presence, the comfort of His Spirit, and the promise of His return. This changes everything about how we view surrender. When Jesus asks us to let go of what we're clinging to, He's not trying to impoverish us - He's inviting us into true wealth. When He calls us to follow Him, He's not leading us into loss but into abundance beyond our wildest dreams. The rich young ruler couldn't see past what he'd be giving up to what he'd be gaining. But we have the advantage of seeing the full story. We know that Jesus didn't just ask for sacrifice - He made the ultimate sacrifice. And because of His poverty, we can be eternally rich. What Jesus offers is infinitely better than anything we could ever give up for Him.

Bible Verse

'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.' - 2 Corinthians 8:9

Reflection Question

How does understanding what Jesus gave up for you change your perspective on what He might be asking you to surrender, and what 'riches' in Christ are you only beginning to discover?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for becoming poor so I could become rich in You. Help me to see that anything You ask me to surrender is nothing compared to what You've already given me. Open my eyes to the incredible wealth I have in You. Amen.

Notes
