



**M A R K**  
COME, FOLLOW ME

## 5 Day Devotional: Watch- What God Joins Together

### Day 1: When Truth Meets Grace

#### Devotional

Life has a way of presenting us with uncomfortable conversations. Whether it's in our marriages, friendships, or family relationships, there are moments when we'd rather avoid the hard topics altogether. We might be tempted to skip over difficult passages in Scripture or soften challenging truths to make them more palatable. But Jesus shows us a different way. When the Pharisees tried to trap Him with questions about divorce, He didn't dodge the issue or give a politically correct answer. Instead, He spoke with both truth and grace - not crushing truth that destroys, but liberating truth that sets us free. This is how Jesus operates in our lives today. He doesn't hide from your mess or avoid the reality of your situation. He's not overwhelmed by the complexities of your challenges. Instead, He meets you exactly where you are with truth that heals and grace that restores. When we face difficult seasons in our relationships, we can trust that Jesus isn't trying to condemn us. His truth isn't meant to crush us but to free us from the patterns and mindsets that keep us trapped. He speaks into our lives with the perfect balance of honesty and love, helping us see clearly while holding us tenderly. Today, whatever uncomfortable truth you might be avoiding, remember that Jesus approaches you with both grace and truth. He's not afraid of your story, and His words are always meant to bring healing, not harm.

#### Bible Verse

'So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.' - Genesis 1:27

#### Reflection Question

What difficult truth in your life have you been avoiding, and how might Jesus want to speak both grace and truth into that situation?

#### Prayer

Jesus, thank You that You don't avoid the hard conversations in my life. Help me to receive both Your truth and Your grace, trusting that Your words are meant to free me, not condemn me. Give me courage to face the uncomfortable areas of my life with Your help. Amen.

#### Notes

---

---

---

---

## Day 2: God's Original Design

### Devotional

When faced with complex relationship questions, Jesus had a remarkable way of cutting through the noise and pointing back to God's original intent. The Pharisees wanted to debate the technicalities of divorce, but Jesus redirected their attention to the beauty of God's design for marriage from the very beginning. In creation, God established something profound when He brought man and woman together. It wasn't just about companionship or convenience - it was about two lives becoming one in a way that only God can accomplish. This divine mystery reveals that marriage isn't simply a contract we negotiate or a partnership we manage, but a covenant that God Himself establishes. When Moses allowed divorce certificates, he wasn't celebrating brokenness or endorsing the dissolution of marriages. Instead, he was regulating and containing the damage that sin causes in our relationships. It's important to understand that allowance doesn't always equal approval. God makes room for broken people, but that doesn't mean He blesses broken systems. This perspective changes everything about how we view our relationships. Whether you're married, single, or somewhere in between, understanding God's heart for covenant faithfulness helps us see that His standards aren't meant to restrict us but to protect the beautiful design He intended from the beginning. God's original design still matters today. His vision for relationships - marked by faithfulness, commitment, and sacrificial love - remains the standard that brings the greatest joy and fulfillment.

### Bible Verse

'That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.' - Genesis 2:24

### Reflection Question

How does understanding God's original design for relationships change the way you approach commitment and faithfulness in your own life?

### Prayer

Father, thank You for Your beautiful design for relationships. Help me to see Your original intent and to pursue the kind of covenant faithfulness that reflects Your heart. Show me how to honor Your design in all my relationships. Amen.

### Notes

---

---

---

---

## Day 3:

# The Danger of Hard Hearts

## Devotional

Have you ever noticed how small hurts can grow into big walls? What starts as a minor disappointment or unaddressed pain can slowly build into something much more significant. Jesus spoke about the hardness of hearts - not as a sudden condition, but as something that develops over time when we allow certain patterns to take root. Hardness of heart forms gradually. It happens when pain goes unaddressed, when resentment toward others begins to settle in, when forgiveness gets delayed, and when pride starts winning over humility. It develops when self-protection slowly replaces self-giving in our relationships. This isn't just about marriage - it applies to all our relationships. When we stop extending grace to our family members, when we hold grudges against friends, or when we build walls instead of bridges, we're allowing our hearts to harden. The scary thing is that it often happens so gradually that we don't even notice it's occurring. But here's the hope: soft hearts save relationships. When we choose to address pain quickly, extend forgiveness readily, and approach others with humility instead of pride, we keep our hearts tender and our relationships healthy. God doesn't want us to live with hard hearts. He wants to keep our hearts soft and responsive - both to Him and to others. This requires intentional choices every day to choose love over self-protection, forgiveness over resentment, and humility over pride.

## Bible Verse

'It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law.' - Mark 10:5

## Reflection Question

What areas of your heart might be hardening due to unaddressed pain or delayed forgiveness, and what steps can you take to soften your heart today?

## Prayer

Lord, search my heart and reveal any areas where hardness is beginning to form. Help me to address pain quickly, forgive readily, and choose humility over pride. Keep my heart soft and responsive to You and others. Amen.

## Notes

---

---

---

# Day 4:

## Beyond Feelings to Covenant

## Devotional

Feelings are wonderful, but they make terrible foundations. They rise and fall like ocean waves, influenced by circumstances, stress, fatigue, and countless other factors. If we build our most important relationships solely on how we feel in the moment, we're setting ourselves up for instability. Jesus points us to something much stronger: covenant. Unlike feelings that fluctuate, covenant holds steady. It's a foundation that remains firm even when emotions are all over the place. This doesn't mean feelings don't matter - they absolutely do - but they shouldn't be the primary basis for our commitment to others. Covenantal thinking changes how we approach relationships during difficult seasons. Instead of asking, "Do I feel like staying committed?" we

ask, "What does my covenant commitment require of me?" Instead of being driven by temporary emotions, we're anchored by lasting promises. This is especially important to understand because relationships will expose our selfishness in ways nothing else can. They put a spotlight on our impatience, reveal our pride, and uncover wounds we didn't know we had. When this happens, it's not a sign that something is wrong - it's simply a sign that God is at work, using our relationships to shape us into who He wants us to be. Whether in marriage, friendship, or family relationships, covenant commitment provides the stability we need to work through challenges rather than running from them. It's the difference between relationships that last and relationships that crumble at the first sign of difficulty.

#### **Bible Verse**

'Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.' - Mark 10:9

#### **Reflection Question**

In what relationships do you tend to rely more on feelings than covenant commitment, and how might shifting to a covenant mindset strengthen those relationships?

#### **Prayer**

God, help me to build my relationships on the solid foundation of covenant commitment rather than the shifting sands of feelings. Teach me to honor my commitments even when emotions are difficult, and use my relationships to shape me into who You want me to be. Amen.

#### **Notes**

---

---

---

## **Day 5: Grace for Your Story**

#### **Devotional**

If you've experienced the pain of broken relationships, divorce, or family dysfunction, you might feel like damaged goods. You might wonder if your story disqualifies you from God's best or makes you a second-class citizen in His kingdom. But Jesus has a different message for you today. Your story is not over. You are not disqualified. You are not damaged goods. Divorce may be a part of your past, but it does not have to define your identity or your future. Jesus confronts sin without canceling people. He calls out truth without pushing away the wounded. He heals what sin has broken. This is the beautiful reality of grace: while it doesn't erase consequences, it can absolutely redeem your future. Jesus never divorced us when we were unfaithful to Him. Instead, He pursues us, forgives us, and restores us. This is the kind of love He extends to you, regardless of what your relationship history looks like. Brokenness often looks for justifications and permission instead of real transformation. It seeks legality instead of healing. But Jesus offers something better - He offers genuine restoration and a fresh start. He doesn't minimize the pain you've experienced or the mistakes you've made, but He also doesn't let them have the final word in your story. Whatever chapter you're in right now, remember that God is still writing your story. His grace is sufficient for your past, present, and future. You are loved, valued, and full of potential in His eyes.

**Bible Verse**

'Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery.' - Mark 10:11-12

**Reflection Question**

How has your past shaped your view of yourself, and what would it look like to embrace God's grace and redemption for your future?

**Prayer**

Jesus, thank You that my story is not over and that Your grace is bigger than my past. Help me to receive Your love and forgiveness, and to walk forward in the freedom and hope You offer. Redeem my future for Your glory. Amen.

**Notes**

---

---

---