

Devotions: July 27 - July 31, 2026



Hidden Treasure, Lasting Joy

A Five-Day Devotional

Life is full of surprises. Some arrive with joy and celebration, while others come wrapped in grief, disappointment, or uncertainty. Rarely do we get to choose what appears on our doorstep. We make plans, set expectations, and imagine how our stories should unfold, only to discover that God often works in ways we could never predict.

Jesus frequently used the language of treasure and pearls to describe the kingdom of God. These images remind us that God's greatest gifts are not always the ones we expect or seek. Sometimes His treasures are found in ordinary places. Sometimes His pearls are discovered through painful circumstances. Yet in every season, God's purpose remains the same: to draw us closer to Himself and to teach us that His presence is our greatest joy.

Over the next five days, you will consider the surprises of God's grace. Together, we will discover that God sees us before we see Him, meets us in our sorrow, restores our identity, and anchors us in a love that cannot be taken away. As you journey through this week, ask God to open your eyes to the treasures He has hidden in unexpected places and to the enduring joy found in belonging to Him.

Monday, July 27

Treasure in the Ordinary

Matthew 13:44

Jesus describes a man who unexpectedly discovers treasure hidden in a field. He wasn't searching for it. He wasn't following a map or pursuing a lifelong dream. He simply stumbled upon something so valuable that it changed everything.

That image feels remarkably true to life. We build schedules, create plans, and work hard to manage uncertainty, yet God often interrupts our expectations with unexpected grace. Sometimes His gifts are obvious—a restored relationship, an answered prayer, or a new opportunity. Other times, they are quieter: a timely conversation, a moment of peace, or a reminder that He has been faithful all along.

Pastor Chris reminded us that God's treasures are not limited to the things we know to ask for. He meets needs we cannot yet name and fills spaces in our hearts we didn't realize were empty. Today's invitation is to approach life with open hands and an expectant heart, believing that God still hides treasures in ordinary places.

Receiving God's treasure also changes our understanding of wealth. The more we experience His presence, the less tightly we cling to things that can disappear. Success, comfort, and possessions may be blessings, but they are not our security. Christ Himself is our greatest treasure, and unlike everything else in this world, He can never be lost.

Reflect

Where have you begun to assume that nothing good could happen, and how might God be inviting you to look for His treasure in unexpected places?

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the countless ways You provide for me, even when I fail to recognize Your gifts. Open my eyes to see Your presence in the ordinary moments of my day. Forgive me for placing my hope in things that cannot last, and teach me to treasure You above all else. Help me to live with gratitude, expectancy, and trust, believing that You are always at work for my good. Through Jesus Christ, my greatest treasure, Amen.

Tuesday, July 28

Seen Before You Ask

John 9:1-7

The man born blind was not searching for Jesus. He was not preparing a prayer request or waiting for a miracle. Yet before he ever recognized Christ, Jesus saw him. There is profound comfort in that truth. God's love does not depend upon our ability to find Him. Time and again throughout Scripture, we discover that He is the One who moves toward us first. He sees our pain before we speak it, knows our fears before we confess them, and understands our needs before we can articulate them.

Pastor Chris reminded us that some of life's greatest surprises come through difficult circumstances. John 9 does not offer simple answers about suffering, but it does reveal a Savior who enters places of darkness with light. The man's blindness was not the end of his story, and neither are the places in your life that feel stuck or beyond repair.

Many of us carry hidden assumptions about God. We quietly believe that He is disappointed with us, distant from us, or unwilling to intervene. Yet this passage reveals a different reality. Jesus moves toward the hurting with compassion and purpose. He is not waiting for you to become stronger, more faithful, or more deserving. He simply invites you to trust Him.

Perhaps the greatest miracle in this story is not restored sight but the discovery that Jesus had been pursuing the man all along. The same is true for you. Even in seasons when God feels absent, He remains present and active, working in ways you may not yet understand.

Reflect

Where do you feel stuck or uncertain today, and what would it look like to trust that Jesus has already taken the first step toward you?

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Thank You for seeing me completely and loving me fully. Thank You for pursuing me even when I feel lost, discouraged, or uncertain. Help me trust that You are present in the places of my life that feel dark or unresolved. Give me faith to believe that You are still working, even when I cannot yet see the outcome. Open my eyes to Your presence and teach me to walk faithfully with You. Amen.

Wednesday, July 29

Surprised by Compassion

Luke 7:13-15

The widow in Luke's Gospel was not looking for Jesus. She was walking in grief. Her future had been shattered, her plans had disappeared, and her heart was undoubtedly heavy with sorrow. Yet in the midst of her pain, Jesus saw her.

Before He performed any miracle, He offered compassion. He noticed her suffering. He moved toward her grief. In a world that often rushes past pain, Jesus stopped. Pastor Chris reminded us that painful surprises are a part of life. Loss comes uninvited. Illness appears without warning. Relationships fracture unexpectedly. We cannot control what happens to us, but we can trust that Christ meets us in the middle of our sorrow.

There is something deeply comforting about knowing that Jesus does not require perfect faith before extending His mercy. The widow never asked for help. She simply received it. Likewise, there are seasons when we are too exhausted to pray eloquently or even know what to ask. In those moments, Christ remains faithful. God's compassion does not always remove our suffering immediately, but it does ensure that suffering never has the final word. His presence steadies us. His promises sustain us. His love reminds us that we are never abandoned.

If you are carrying grief today, know this: Jesus sees you. He sees the tears no one else notices, the questions you cannot answer, and the burdens you struggle to explain. His compassion is not theoretical; it is personal. And His mercy is never in short supply.

Reflect

What burden have you been carrying alone, and what would it look like to allow Jesus—and perhaps others—to meet you in that place with compassion?

Prayer

Merciful Savior,

Thank You for seeing me in my moments of weakness and sorrow. Thank You for drawing near when I feel overwhelmed and weary. Help me bring my grief honestly before You instead of carrying it alone. Surround me with people who reflect Your compassion, and help me become a source of comfort to others who are hurting. Remind me that Your love is greater than my pain and that Your promises are stronger than my fears. Amen.

Thursday, July 30

Called by Name

Mark 5:34

The woman in Mark 5 had spent years suffering in silence. She had exhausted her resources, endured disappointment after disappointment, and learned what it felt like to live on the margins. By every measure, she was an outsider—physically weak, socially isolated, and spiritually exhausted. Yet she carried one final hope: if she could simply touch the hem of Jesus' garment, perhaps everything could change.

She came seeking healing, and she received it. But Jesus was not content to let her slip quietly back into the crowd. He stopped. He called her forward. And then He spoke a single word that changed everything: "Daughter."

Pastor Chris emphasized that God's pearls are often greater than the requests we bring to Him. This woman wanted relief from her suffering, but Jesus gave her something deeper. He restored not only her body but also her identity. In front of everyone who had overlooked or avoided her, He publicly declared that she belonged.

Many of us approach God in much the same way. We come asking for provision, direction, healing, or peace. These are good and necessary prayers. Yet God frequently desires to give us more than answers—He desires to remind us who we are. In Christ, we are not burdens, disappointments, or outsiders. We are beloved children welcomed into the family of God. We are invited not merely to receive help but to experience belonging. The same Savior who called the woman "Daughter" continues to call His people by name today.

Reflect

What label or identity have you been carrying that Jesus may be inviting you to lay down so that you can more fully embrace your identity as His beloved child?

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Thank You for seeing beyond my struggles and speaking words of life over me. Forgive me for allowing my fears, failures, and wounds to define my identity more than Your promises. Help me to believe that I truly belong to You. Teach me to live as Your beloved child and to welcome others with the same compassion You have shown me. Thank You for calling me by name and for reminding me that I never walk alone. Amen.

Friday, July 31

Held by an Unbreakable Love
Romans 8:38-39

As this week comes to a close, we arrive at one of the most comforting promises in all of Scripture: nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Life's surprises will continue. Some will fill us with gratitude; others will leave us breathless with grief. There will be seasons of abundance and seasons of uncertainty. Relationships will change. Plans will unravel. Our circumstances will shift in ways we cannot anticipate. Yet through it all, one truth remains immovable: God's love does not change.

Pastor Chris pointed us to a confidence that reaches beyond every circumstance. The Apostle Paul does not say that life will be easy or predictable. Instead, he declares that neither death nor life, angels nor rulers, things present nor things to come, nor anything else in all creation can separate us from God's love. The story of the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8 beautifully illustrates this promise. He began his journey searching for understanding but discovered something infinitely greater: he found Christ and became part of God's family. He learned that he was not an outsider after all. God's greatest surprises are often not the changes in our circumstances but the assurance that we are forever His.

This is the enduring joy of the Christian life: we are loved with a love that cannot be diminished, broken, or lost. God's love held you before you knew Him, carried you through every season that brought you to this moment, and will remain with you long after today's concerns have passed away. As you leave this devotional journey, carry this truth with you: God's treasures may surprise you, His pearls may arrive unexpectedly, but His love will never fail you. You are held securely in the hands of a faithful Savior.

Reflect

What fear or uncertainty would lose its power over your life if you truly believed that nothing could separate you from the love of God in Christ?

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that nothing in all creation—not my failures, my fears, my circumstances, or my future—can separate me from You. When I am anxious, remind me that I am held. When I am discouraged, remind me that I am loved. When I am uncertain, remind me that You are faithful. Help me to live each day with confidence in Your promises and joy in Your presence. May my life reflect the peace that comes from knowing I belong to You forever. Through Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, Amen.

Thank you for spending time with the Word this week. Sunday's Coming!