

Devotions: June 15 - June 19, 2026



Empty Hands, Full Grace

*Jesus sends His disciples into a world full of brokenness and need. Yet before He teaches them how to heal, preach, or serve, He teaches them something even more important: **dependence upon Him**. The disciples discover that the greatest resource they carry is not money, experience, confidence, or preparation—it is the presence and power of Christ.*

Over the next five days, you are invited to walk that same path. Let Jesus reshape your eyes with compassion, your heart with trust, and your understanding of what it means to be equipped for His mission. You may come with empty hands, but you will discover a God whose grace is always enough.

Monday, July 15

Seeing Through the Eyes of Compassion

Matthew 9:36

When Jesus looked upon the crowds, He did not see an interruption, a problem to solve, or a task to complete. He saw people who were weary, lost, and longing for someone to care for them. His heart was moved with compassion because He recognized their deepest need, not simply for food, healing, or relief, but for a shepherd who would guide them into the love of God.

Pastor Chris reminds us that our natural tendency is often to look at people through the lens of inconvenience or comparison. We may notice someone's mistakes before we recognize their pain. We may judge their choices before we understand their story. But Christ's compassion always looks deeper. He sees the person behind the struggle and the soul behind the outward appearance.

Before Jesus calls His disciples to go, He first teaches them how to see. True ministry begins with a heart transformed by mercy. The greatest acts of service often begin with the simplest acts of noticing, listening to someone who feels unheard, encouraging someone who feels forgotten, or stepping into another person's pain with patience and grace.

The church does not change the world because it has all the answers; it changes the world because it reflects the heart of a compassionate Savior.

Self-Reflection

Who is someone in my life that I have been too busy, too frustrated, or too distracted to truly see through the eyes of Christ?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, soften my heart to see people as You see them. Remove my tendency to judge, overlook, or become distracted by my own concerns. Give me eyes to notice those who are hurting and a heart willing to enter into their struggles with compassion and love. Amen.

Tuesday, June 16

Called and Equipped by Christ

Matthew 10:1

Jesus did not choose the disciples because they were the most educated, influential, or impressive people available. He called ordinary men who had fears, weaknesses, misunderstandings, and limitations. Yet He entrusted them with an extraordinary mission because the power behind their work came from Him. This truth is both humbling and freeing. We often tell ourselves that we need more knowledge, more confidence, or better circumstances before God can use us. We wait until we feel ready. But throughout Scripture, God repeatedly chooses ordinary and unlikely people so that His power, not human ability, receives the glory.

At the same time, this calling keeps us from pride. Pastor Chris makes clear that the mission of God is not something we accomplish through talent or personality. Every gift, opportunity, and success is a reflection of God working through us.

Wherever God has placed you...in your family, workplace, neighborhood, or church...He has given you opportunities to represent Him. You do not walk into those places carrying your own authority. You go as one who belongs to Christ, empowered by His Spirit and sustained by His grace.

Self-Reflection

Where have I been waiting until I feel more prepared before obeying what God has already placed in front of me?

Prayer

Father, thank You for calling imperfect people into Your service. When I feel inadequate, remind me that Your strength is greater than my weakness. When I feel capable, remind me that all I have comes from You. Use me today for Your purposes. Amen.

Wednesday, June 17

Letting Go of What I Depend On

Matthew 10:9-10

Jesus' instructions to the disciples must have sounded unsettling. No extra money. No additional supplies. No safety net. In a world where preparation meant survival, Jesus intentionally sent His followers with less than what they thought they needed.

Pastor Chris posed the question: Why would He do this? Because He wanted them to discover a deeper truth: their security was never found in what they carried; it was found in the One who sent them.

Many of us carry our own modern versions of a travel bag. It may be our financial security, our reputation, our carefully designed plans, our need to control outcomes, or our dependence on our own abilities. These things are not necessarily wrong, but they can become dangerous when we trust them more than we trust God.

God sometimes allows us to enter situations where our usual resources are not enough. Those moments reveal where our confidence truly lies. They invite us to exchange self-reliance for God-reliance.

Faith does not mean ignoring wisdom or refusing preparation. Faith means that after we have done what we can, we rest in the confidence that God will provide what we cannot.

Self-Reflection

What "bag" am I carrying that gives me a false sense of control or keeps me from depending fully on God?

Prayer

Lord, reveal the things I hold on to for security more than I hold on to You. Teach me to trust Your provision, even when I cannot see every step ahead. Help me surrender control and walk faithfully where You lead. Amen.

Thursday, June 18

Finding Strength in God's Presence

Psalm 46:1

Pastor Chris reminds us that the disciples' journey of dependence was not simply about having less; it was about discovering more of God. Their lack became the place where they experienced God's faithfulness. Their vulnerability became the place where they learned that God Himself was their refuge.

We often think strength means being independent, unshaken, and able to handle everything ourselves. Scripture offers a different picture. True strength is not the absence of weakness; it is the confidence that God remains present in our weakness.

There will be seasons when you feel exhausted from serving, discouraged by circumstances, or uncertain about what comes next. Those feelings do not mean God has abandoned you. Sometimes, they are the very moments where God gently reminds you that He is closer than you realized.

A refuge is not a place where storms never happen. It is the place where you are protected when storms come. The presence of God does not always remove the battle around you, but it gives you peace and courage within it.

Self-Reflection

When I experience difficulty, do I first run toward God for refuge, or do I exhaust myself trying to handle everything alone?

Prayer

God, my refuge and strength, remind me that I do not face life's challenges alone. When I feel overwhelmed, draw me close to Your presence. Let Your peace steady my heart and Your promises strengthen my soul. Amen.

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Friday, June 19

God's Power in My Weakness

2 Corinthians 12:9

The world teaches us to hide our weaknesses and present ourselves as capable and self-sufficient. We often believe that if we had more resources, more time, more energy, or greater confidence, then we could finally do something meaningful for God.

But the gospel tells a different story. God often does His greatest work through people who know they are not enough.

The disciples would eventually preach boldly, heal the sick, and carry Christ's message throughout the world. Yet their greatest discovery was not their own courage or ability; it was the faithfulness of the God who worked through them.

Your limitations are not obstacles to God working. In His hands, they can become opportunities for His grace to be displayed. The places where you feel empty may become the very places where Christ fills you most completely.

You do not have to wait until your hands are full to say yes to God. Bring Him your weakness, your fears, your doubts, and your limitations. The same Savior who called the disciples still calls ordinary people today and promises, "My grace is sufficient for you."

Self-Reflection

What weakness or limitation am I trying to overcome on my own instead of surrendering to Christ and allowing Him to work through it?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, I confess my desire to appear strong and capable. Help me to bring my weakness to You without shame. Let my life display not my ability, but Your grace, Your power, and Your faithfulness. Amen.

The disciples' journey was not a lesson in becoming more self-sufficient; it was a lesson in becoming more dependent on God. They began by seeing the needs around them, continued by stepping into a calling beyond their abilities, and discovered that their greatest strength was found in their weakness.

The same is true for us. The hands that feel empty are often the hands God is most ready to fill.

Sunday's Coming!