

Devotions: June 22 - June 26, 2026



Following Jesus When It Costs

A Five-Day Devotional

Following Jesus can bring unexpected tension, even within the people we love most. This five-day devotional explores how allegiance to Christ may divide earthly relationships, yet also draws us into a deeper, stronger family in the church. As you reflect each day, ask God to anchor you in His fatherly care and to form you into a faithful member of His household.

Monday, July 22

The Cost of Allegiance

Matthew 10:34-39

Jesus speaks honestly: the gospel can bring division, even inside a home. Christ calls for more than admiration; He calls for allegiance, the kind that reshapes priorities and loyalties. That can feel frightening, especially when those closest to you view your obedience as betrayal. Pastor Chris's stories echo this: some believers follow Jesus without the support of parents, siblings, or spouses. Jesus isn't celebrating conflict; He's preparing His disciples to endure it without losing heart.

When He says that loving father, mother, or anyone more than Him disqualifies us, He isn't dismissing family love; He's making sure nothing competes with the throne that belongs to Him alone. Family bonds are some of the deepest relationships we have, which is exactly why Jesus names them specifically; if allegiance to Christ never costs us anything in our closest relationships, it may be worth asking whether our discipleship has truly been tested. Losing your life for His sake is, paradoxically, how you find it.

Self-Reflection

Has your faith ever caused real tension with someone you love? Did you respond with fear, resentment, or steady faithfulness?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, You know the relationships that feel strained because of my devotion to You. Give me the courage to remain faithful when it costs something, and teach me to love my family well without letting anyone outrank You. Amen.

Tuesday, June 23

Not Abandoned in the Hard Moment

Matthew 10:16-20

Jesus sends His people out "as sheep among wolves," yet calls them to be "wise as serpents and innocent as doves", discernment without losing tenderness. He promises they won't have to manufacture their own defense: the Spirit of the Father will give them words in the very hour they need them. Pastor Chris reminded us that family conflict over faith isn't always rooted in bitterness; sometimes it's simply the kingdom breaking in and loyalties being clarified.

You're not asked to be naive about how painful opposition can be, nor to become defensive or sharp in response. Wisdom and gentleness are meant to coexist in the believer under pressure. When a hard conversation with someone you love catches you off guard, you don't have to navigate it alone. You're invited to trust that the same Spirit who indwells you will give you steadiness and the right words at the moment you need them most.

Self-Reflection

Recall a moment you felt caught off guard defending your faith. Did you respond with panic or peace?

Prayer

Holy Spirit, when I face opposition because of my faith, give me wisdom without losing gentleness. Help me trust You for words and steadiness rather than reacting in fear or pride. Amen.

Wednesday, June 24

A New and Unshakable Family

Romans 8:15-17

The gospel calls you out of old allegiances and into a new one. In Christ, you've received adoption, and the Spirit trains your heart to cry, "Abba! Father!" In the Roman world, adoption granted full inheritance rights—no lesser standing than a biological child. Pastor Chris emphasized this comfort: God will not abandon or forsake us because of the sacrifice of His Son.

Even if earthly bonds strain or fracture, the Father's commitment is not fragile. Your identity is secured not by family approval but by the Father who claims you as His own. The ache of feeling like an outsider in your own family is real, but Scripture offers a deeper anchor: the Spirit Himself testifies within you that you belong—a settled reality you're invited to rest in, not a feeling you must manufacture, especially on the days your earthly relationships feel most uncertain.

Self-Reflection

Where do you most need to be reminded that your identity rests in God's adoption rather than others' approval?

Prayer

Father, thank You for calling me Your child, fully and forever, not conditionally. When I feel distant from people I love, remind me that my place in Your family can never be taken away. Amen.

Thursday, June 25

A Household, Not Just a Service

Galatians 6:2

God's design for His people is shared life, not solitary endurance. The church is a spiritual family meant to bear burdens together, practical and emotional. For those who lose closeness with their biological family because of their faith, the church is called to become a lived reality of love and fellowship. In the earliest church, this often meant tangible things: shared meals, pooled resources, a place to belong for those cast out by their own households for following Christ.

Pastor Chris acknowledged that even in God's family, we sometimes give one another "gray hairs," yet we're still bound together by grace. Church isn't a service we attend; it's a household we belong to, one bound not by personality compatibility but by shared grace. That calls us to keep showing up and to keep offering and receiving support, because the alternative, isolation, costs far more than the friction of community.

Self-Reflection

Are you currently more in the posture of giving support or receiving it? Who might need you to reach out this week?

Prayer

Lord, thank You for the family You've given me in the church. Show me someone carrying a burden alone, and give me courage to step toward them—or to receive help myself. Amen.

Friday, June 25

Held by a Faithful Savior

Hebrews 4:14-16

Our confidence rests not in our strength but in our Savior's finished work. Jesus reigns at the right hand of the Father with nail-pierced hands, proof that He entered suffering and remained faithful to the end. Because He was "tempted in every way, yet without sin," He can sympathize with our weakness, including the pain of rejection from those closest to us. Pastor Chris closed with assurance: the Father sees the Son's sacrifice and will not abandon His children now.

That security turns into mission. When you know you're held, you can become bold. The throne of grace isn't a place to prove your composure first; it's built specifically for those who are weak and in need of mercy. You're invited to bring your actual relational losses and fears honestly before Jesus. Not a polished version of your struggle, trusting that you'll find mercy exactly when you need it.

Self-Reflection

What relational pain have you been hesitant to bring honestly before God? What's the one truth from this week you most want to carry forward?

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for being acquainted with my pain, not distant from it. Meet me with mercy right where I am, and from that place, make me bold to keep living faithfully. Amen.

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