



5 Daily Devotionals (From June 7th Sermon)

Day 1: God Sees the Heart

Key Verse:

"But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart." — Matthew 5:28

Reflection

When Jesus teaches in the Sermon on the Mount, He consistently moves beyond outward behavior and addresses the heart. Many people in His day believed they were righteous because they avoided certain actions. Yet Jesus reveals that sin begins long before an outward act takes place.

This can be uncomfortable because it exposes the hidden places of our lives—the thoughts, desires, and attitudes that no one else sees. But Christ does not expose our hearts to shame us. He exposes them so He can heal them.

Sin promises satisfaction but leaves damage behind. Whether it is lust, anger, pride, or bitterness, it slowly harms our relationships and draws us away from God's design. Jesus calls us to something better. He invites us to bring our struggles into the light and receive His forgiveness.

The good news is that the One who reveals our sin is also the One who carried that sin to the cross. In Christ, there is forgiveness, restoration, and a fresh start today.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, You know my heart better than I do. Reveal any sin that is hiding within me, and lead me to repentance. Thank You for Your forgiveness and mercy. Create in me a clean heart and help me walk in Your ways today. Amen.

Day 2: The Blessing of Forgiveness

Key Verse:

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." — Ephesians 4:32

Reflection

Many of life's deepest wounds come from broken relationships. Harsh words, betrayal, disappointment, and unresolved conflict can leave lasting scars. Our natural response is often to hold on to resentment or seek justification for our anger.

Yet Jesus continually calls His people back to forgiveness.

Forgiveness is not pretending that sin did not happen. It is not saying that wrong actions were acceptable. Instead, forgiveness is choosing to release our desire for revenge and entrust justice to God.

This is difficult because forgiveness often feels costly. But refusing to forgive carries a cost as well. Bitterness can take root in our hearts and affect every relationship around us.

The foundation of Christian forgiveness is not our strength but Christ's forgiveness of us. While we were still sinners, He willingly suffered and died for our salvation. Because we have received such abundant mercy, we are free to extend mercy to others.

As God softens our hearts, He often brings healing where pain once lived.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for forgiving me through Jesus. Help me forgive those who have hurt me. Remove bitterness from my heart and replace it with Your peace. Teach me to show others the same mercy You have shown me. Amen.

Day 3: God's Gift of Faithful Love

Key Verse:

"Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." — Matthew 19:6

Reflection

Marriage is one of God's good gifts. From the beginning, He designed it as a lifelong union where a husband and wife support, encourage, and care for one another.

Yet every marriage involves two imperfect sinners. Challenges, disagreements, disappointments, and struggles are inevitable. Because of this reality, lasting marriages are built not on perfection but on grace, forgiveness, and perseverance.

The world often treats relationships as temporary and disposable. God's design is different. He calls husbands and wives to remain faithful, to serve one another, and to keep working through difficulties rather than giving up when challenges arise.

This does not mean marriage is always easy. In fact, many of the strongest marriages have endured seasons of hardship. Through those struggles, God often strengthens faith, deepens love, and teaches patience.

Whether you are married, single, widowed, or divorced, God's love for you remains steadfast. His grace is greater than your failures, and His mercy is sufficient for every season of life.

Prayer

Father, thank You for the relationships You have given me. Strengthen marriages, heal wounded families, and help us reflect Your faithful love. Teach me to be patient, forgiving, and committed in the relationships You have entrusted to me. Amen.

Day 4: Let Your Yes Be Yes

Key Verse:

"Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil." — Matthew 5:37

Reflection

Trust is one of the most valuable things we can build—and one of the easiest things to lose.

Jesus teaches His followers to be people of integrity. Rather than relying on elaborate promises or impressive words, Christians are called to speak truthfully and keep their commitments.

Every relationship depends on trust. Families, friendships, workplaces, and churches flourish when people can depend on one another. Conversely, dishonesty creates doubt, confusion, and distance.

Being truthful sometimes requires difficult conversations. It may mean admitting mistakes, speaking hard truths in love, or following through on commitments when doing so is inconvenient.

As followers of Christ, we reflect God's character when we tell the truth. Our heavenly Father is completely faithful. He keeps every promise He makes. Because we belong to Him, we seek to become people whose words can be trusted.

Today, consider whether your speech reflects the truth and faithfulness of God.

Prayer

Lord, help me be a person of integrity. Guard my lips from deception and teach me to speak the truth in love. Make me trustworthy in my words and actions so that others may see Your faithfulness through me. Amen.

Day 5: Grace for Imperfect People

Key Verse:

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." — 1 John 1:9

Reflection

After hearing Jesus' teachings, it is easy to feel overwhelmed. His standards are high because God's holiness is perfect. When we honestly examine ourselves, we quickly recognize how often we fall short.

Yet the purpose of God's law is not to drive us into despair. It is to lead us to Christ.

Jesus shows us our sin so that we will recognize our need for a Savior. He reveals the brokenness in our hearts so that we will seek His healing. Every failure, every regret, and every wrong turn can be brought before Him in repentance.

And what do we find there?

Not rejection. Not abandonment. We find a gracious Savior who forgives sinners.

God's love does not depend on our performance. Through Christ's death and resurrection, we are forgiven, adopted into God's family, and given the promise of eternal life. He continues to work in us, shaping us into the people He created us to be.

Today, rest in the certainty that God's mercy is greater than your sin.

Prayer

Gracious Father, thank You for the forgiveness won for me through Jesus Christ. When I fail, remind me of Your mercy. Strengthen my faith, renew my heart, and help me walk in the confidence of Your grace each day. Amen.

Small Group Discussion Guide

Matters of the Heart: Purity, Faithfulness, and Integrity

Primary Text: Matthew 5:27–37

Opening Question

Think of a relationship (friendship, family, marriage, mentor, etc.) that has positively shaped your life. What qualities made that relationship strong and lasting?

Introduction

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus challenges His listeners to move beyond outward appearances and examine the condition of their hearts. Many people in His day believed they were righteous because they followed external rules, but Jesus reveals that God desires something deeper: hearts transformed by His grace.

In Matthew 5:27–37, Jesus addresses three areas that deeply affect our relationships:

- Purity and lust
- Marriage and faithfulness
- Truthfulness and integrity

While these teachings expose our sin and shortcomings, they also point us to the mercy of Christ, who forgives, restores, and strengthens His people.

Read Matthew 5:27–37

Supporting Bible Verses

Purity of Heart

- Psalm 51:10 — "Create in me a clean heart, O God."
- 1 Corinthians 6:18–20
- Job 31:1

Marriage and Faithfulness

- Genesis 2:24
- Ephesians 5:31–32
- Hebrews 13:4

Truthfulness and Integrity

- Ephesians 4:25
- Colossians 3:9–10
- Proverbs 12:22

God's Forgiveness

- 1 John 1:8–9
 - Romans 8:1
 - Psalm 103:8–12
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Discussion Questions

Looking at the Heart

1. Why do you think Jesus focuses on the heart and not merely outward actions?
2. How can sinful attitudes eventually lead to sinful actions?
3. In what ways does our culture encourage us to justify sin rather than repent of it?

Purity and Temptation

4. Jesus speaks strongly about dealing with temptation. What practical steps can believers take to remove sources of temptation from their lives?
5. How does remembering our identity in Christ help us fight temptation?

Marriage and Faithfulness

6. What does this passage teach about God's design and purpose for marriage?
7. Why do you think forgiveness is such an essential part of every marriage and relationship?
8. Even for those who are single, widowed, or divorced, what principles from this passage apply to all Christian relationships?

Truthfulness and Integrity

9. Why is trust so important in relationships?
10. What does it mean to let your "Yes" be yes and your "No" be no?
11. How can Christians stand out in a culture where honesty is often compromised?

Grace and Restoration

12. Which part of this passage challenges you the most?
 13. How does the gospel provide hope when we recognize our failures in purity, faithfulness, or truthfulness?
 14. What encouragement do you find in knowing that Christ forgives repentant sinners and continues to work in them?
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Key Takeaway

Jesus' words reveal both God's holy standard and our need for a Savior. Left to ourselves, we fall short. Yet Christ has borne our sins on the cross, offers full forgiveness, and continues to shape us through His Word and Spirit. As forgiven children of God, we strive to live lives marked by purity, faithfulness, truthfulness, and love—not to earn God's favor, but because we have already received it in Christ.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for speaking truthfully to us through Your Word. We confess that we often fall short in our thoughts, words, and actions. Forgive us for the times we have failed to honor You in our relationships, purity, faithfulness, and integrity.

Thank You for sending Jesus to bear our sins and reconcile us to You. Through His death and resurrection, give us confidence in Your mercy and forgiveness.

Strengthen us by Your Spirit to resist temptation, speak truthfully, honor our commitments, and show forgiveness to others. Help us reflect Your love in our homes, friendships, workplaces, and communities.

Keep our eyes fixed on Christ, and continue to transform our hearts so that our lives may bring glory to You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.