



5 Daily Devotionals (From May 31st Sermon)

Day 1: You Are Salt

Key Verse:

"You are the salt of the earth." — Matthew 5:13

Reflection:

Jesus does not tell His followers to become salt. He says, "You are the salt of the earth." Through faith in Christ, God has already made you part of His preserving work in the world.

Salt slows decay. In the same way, God uses His people to bring truth, goodness, mercy, and hope into a broken world. While evil often seems to gain ground, the Lord continues to preserve the world as He gathers people into His kingdom through the Gospel.

Part of being "salty" is caring about what God cares about. The Lord desires that people be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. That means Christians cannot be indifferent to the spiritual condition of those around them. Family members, friends, neighbors, and coworkers all need the saving message of Jesus.

You may not feel particularly influential, but God works through ordinary believers. A conversation, an invitation, a prayer, or a simple act of love can become a tool the Holy Spirit uses to draw someone to Christ.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for calling me Your own. Give me a heart that cares for those who do not yet know You. Help me to be faithful in sharing Your love and truth. Amen.

Day 2: Let Your Light Shine

Key Verse:

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden." — Matthew 5:14

Reflection:

The light that shines from believers is not their own. It is the light of Christ reflected through their lives.

Sometimes we think our faith goes unnoticed. We quietly attend worship, read Scripture, pray, and seek to follow God's Word. Yet people are watching more than we realize. They notice our priorities, our values, our willingness to forgive, and our hope in difficult circumstances.

This does not mean Christians are perfect. In fact, one of the brightest testimonies is often humble repentance. The world expects pride and self-justification. It is surprised when someone admits wrongdoing and seeks forgiveness.

Fear often tempts us to hide our light. We fear rejection, criticism, or awkward conversations. Yet Jesus calls us to shine, not for our own glory, but so that others may glorify our Father in heaven.

Where has God placed you today? In your home, workplace, neighborhood, or church, He has given you opportunities to reflect His light.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, help me not to hide the faith You have given me. Let my words and actions point others to Jesus so that You receive all the glory. Amen.

Day 3: Christ Fulfilled the Law for You

Key Verse:

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." — Matthew 5:17

Reflection:

The Law of God reveals His holy will and exposes our sin. When we compare ourselves to God's perfect standard, we quickly discover how far we fall short.

That reality can be discouraging until we remember why Jesus came.

Christ fulfilled the Law perfectly. Every command God gave, Jesus obeyed completely. Every requirement of divine justice, He satisfied through His suffering and death on the cross. He became the perfect sacrifice for sinners.

This is the heart of the Gospel: your standing before God does not depend on your performance. It depends on Christ's performance. His righteousness is credited to you through faith.

Yet this grace is not an excuse to ignore God's commands. Rather, forgiveness creates a new heart that desires to follow Him. We obey not to earn God's favor but because we already have it in Christ.

Today, rest in the finished work of Jesus. Your hope is not in how well you obey, but in the One who obeyed perfectly in your place.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for fulfilling the Law that I could never keep. Help me to trust fully in Your righteousness and to follow You with a grateful heart. Amen.

Day 4: The Danger of an Unforgiving Heart

Key Verse:

"Everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment." — Matthew 5:22

Reflection:

Jesus teaches that sin is not merely about outward actions. He looks deeper—to the heart.

Murder begins with anger. Harsh words grow out of resentment. Broken relationships often start with a refusal to forgive.

Unforgiveness can feel justified. We replay the offense, remember the hurt, and convince ourselves that holding on protects us. Yet bitterness rarely harms the other person as much as it harms us. It poisons our hearts and steals our peace.

The Lord has forgiven us at an immeasurable cost. Through Christ's sacrifice, our sins have been washed away. As recipients of such mercy, we are called to extend mercy to others.

Forgiveness does not deny that wrong was done. It entrusts justice to God. It releases the debt and refuses to let bitterness rule the heart.

Is there someone you need to forgive today? Ask God for the strength to let go and place the situation into His hands.

Prayer:

Merciful Father, forgive me for the times I have held on to anger and resentment. Fill my heart with Your mercy and help me forgive as You have forgiven me. Amen.

Day 5: Pursue Reconciliation

Key Verse:

"First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift." — Matthew 5:24

Reflection:

God places a high value on reconciliation. Jesus teaches that restored relationships matter deeply to Him.

When we have wronged someone, our first instinct is often to avoid the situation. Pride whispers that we should wait for the other person to make the first move. Yet Jesus calls us to humility.

Sometimes the most spiritual thing we can do is say two simple words: "I'm sorry."

Reconciliation is not always easy, and it is not always fully possible. The other person may not respond as we hope. But as far as it depends on us, God calls us to seek peace.

The good news is that reconciliation begins with God Himself. Through Christ, He has reconciled us to Himself. We were His enemies, yet He pursued us with grace and forgiveness.

Because we have been reconciled to God, we can become people who pursue reconciliation with others.

Who comes to mind today? Is there a conversation you've been avoiding? Ask God for courage and wisdom to take the first step.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for reconciling me to Yourself through Jesus. Give me humility to seek peace, courage to apologize when needed, and grace to forgive others freely. Amen.

Small Group Discussion

Matthew 5:13–26

Key Theme: Jesus calls His people to be salt and light in the world, to treasure His Word, and to pursue forgiveness and reconciliation from the heart.

Opening Question

Who has been one of the biggest positive influences in your life, and what made that person stand out?

Read Together

Matthew 5:13–26

Main Idea

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus reminds His followers that they already are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Through faith in Christ, believers influence the world around them, point others to salvation, and reflect God's grace. Jesus also teaches that true righteousness is not merely outward behavior—it begins in the heart. Because Christ fulfilled the Law and secured forgiveness through His death and resurrection, His people are called to live lives marked by repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

Supporting Bible Verses

Salt and Light

- Matthew 5:13–16
- Philippians 2:14–16
- 1 Peter 2:9

Christ Fulfilled the Law

- Matthew 5:17
- Romans 3:21–24
- Galatians 2:16

Salvation by Grace Through Faith

- Ephesians 2:8–9
- Titus 3:4–7

Forgiveness and Reconciliation

- Colossians 3:12–13
 - Ephesians 4:31–32
 - Romans 12:18
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Discussion Questions

Salt and Light

1. What do you think Jesus means when He says, "You are the salt of the earth" and "You are the light of the world"?
2. How can Christians help preserve what is good and godly in their homes, workplaces, and communities?
3. Why do you think it is sometimes difficult to share your faith with family, friends, or neighbors?
4. Who are some people God may be placing on your heart to pray for and encourage toward Christ?

Christ and the Law

5. Why is it important that Jesus did not abolish the Law but fulfilled it?
6. What is the difference between being saved by our works and being saved through faith in Christ?
7. How does knowing that Jesus fulfilled the Law for us bring comfort when we struggle with sin?

Anger, Forgiveness, and Reconciliation

8. Jesus teaches that sin begins in the heart. How can anger, resentment, or bitterness affect our relationship with God and others?
 9. Why is forgiveness often difficult?
 10. What practical steps can we take when reconciliation is needed in a relationship?
 11. Is there someone you need to forgive, or someone from whom you need to seek forgiveness?
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Digging Deeper

The Pharisees focused heavily on outward obedience, but Jesus points to something deeper—the condition of the heart. God's answer is not simply "try harder." Instead, He gives us forgiveness through Christ and continually renews us through His Word. As forgiven people, we are free to forgive others, seek peace, and reflect Christ's light to the world.

Takeaway: We are not made righteous by our efforts. We are made righteous through Christ. Because we have received His forgiveness, we can live as salt and light and extend that same forgiveness to others.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son to fulfill the Law on our behalf and to win forgiveness through His death and resurrection. Help us live as salt and light in a world that desperately needs Your truth and grace. Give us hearts that care for those who do not yet know You. Where there is anger, resentment, or bitterness within us, grant repentance and healing. Give us the courage to forgive those who have hurt us and to seek reconciliation where it is needed. Strengthen our faith and help us reflect the love of Christ in our words and actions. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.