



5 Daily Devotionals (From September 20th Sermon)

Day 1 — Come Back Home

Key Verse:

“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.” — Isaiah 55:6

Reflection

There are seasons when God seems far away. We pray, but our prayers feel unanswered. We wonder where God is when suffering comes, when someone we love becomes sick, or when life takes a direction we never expected.

But sometimes the problem isn't that God has moved. **We have.**

God's people in Isaiah's day had turned toward idols and away from the Lord. Yet God called them to return. The same invitation comes to us. When life is going well, it's easy to become distracted and push God toward the margins. Work, family, money, hobbies, entertainment, and countless other things can quietly become more important than our relationship with Him.

The good news is that God doesn't tell us to find our own way back. He calls us to return to Him. He remains faithful even when we wander.

Today, consider where God has been pushed toward the margins of your life. Then turn toward Him again. He is not waiting to condemn you. He is calling you home.

Prayer:

Lord, forgive me for the ways I have allowed other things to take Your place. Turn my heart back toward You and help me seek You each day. Thank You for remaining near even when I have wandered. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 2 — Lay Down Your Weapons

Key Verse:

“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord.” — Isaiah 55:7

Reflection

Repentance is more than saying, “I’m sorry.” It means turning around and going another direction.

The sermon pictured repentance like laying down a weapon. Instead of continuing into the next argument, the next hurtful word, the next act of pride, or the next attempt to get our own way, we put the weapon down. We surrender.

That can be difficult because we often believe we’re right. We want things done our way, on our timetable, according to our desires. But sin puts us in conflict—not only with other people, but ultimately with God.

Repentance begins when we stop defending ourselves and confess the truth about our sin. We don’t have to pretend that our sin is insignificant. Scripture takes sin seriously. Yet God’s mercy is even greater.

Isaiah gives us this beautiful promise: when we return to the Lord, **He has compassion and abundantly pardons.**

Because of Christ, repentance isn’t a march toward condemnation. It is a return to the God who forgives sinners.

Application:

What “weapon” do you need to lay down today—pride, anger, resentment, gossip, control, or self-reliance? Confess it to God and trust His forgiveness in Christ.

Day 3 — Mercy Greater Than Your Sin

Key Verse:

“Let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.” — Isaiah 55:7

Reflection

Many of us carry things from the past that we wish we could erase. Perhaps there are words we wish we hadn't spoken, choices we wish we hadn't made, relationships we wish we hadn't damaged, or sins we still struggle to believe God could forgive.

The answer of the Gospel is yes.

Not because our sin doesn't matter. It does. The cross shows us exactly how seriously God takes sin. Our sin required the death of His Son.

But the cross also shows us how deeply God loves sinners.

Jesus did not die for people who had everything together. He died for sinners—for people who are broken, guilty, wandering, and in need of grace. The church is not a place where we pretend to have perfect lives. It is a place where sinners receive the forgiveness Christ won for them.

Your past does not have the final word. Christ does.

When you look at the cross, you see both the seriousness of your sin and the greatness of God's mercy. Your forgiveness isn't based on how good you've become. It rests on what Jesus has already done for you.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for bearing my sin on the cross. Help me stop clinging to guilt that You have already forgiven. Give me faith to trust Your mercy and live in the freedom of Your grace. Amen.

Day 4 — His Ways Are Higher

Key Verse:

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.” — Isaiah 55:8

Reflection

Some of the hardest questions in life begin with the words, “Why, God?”

Why did this happen? Why didn't God answer my prayer the way I wanted? Why did someone I love suffer? Why does God allow pain even when we are trying to follow Him?

Scripture doesn't give us an explanation for every individual suffering we experience. Instead, Isaiah reminds us that God's perspective is greater than ours.

We see today. God sees eternity.

We see the problem. God sees the whole story.

We see what appears to be weakness. God revealed His greatest victory through what appeared to be weakness—the death of Jesus on the cross.

God's ways often don't look like what we would choose. We might expect judgment, but God gives mercy. We might expect condemnation, but God gives forgiveness. We might expect payment, but God provides a sacrifice.

That doesn't mean suffering isn't painful. It means our inability to understand God's purposes doesn't mean He has abandoned us.

When life doesn't make sense, we can still trust the One who sees what we cannot see.

Application:

Bring one unanswered “why” to God today. You don't have to understand everything before you trust Him. Ask Him for the faith to trust His wisdom when your perspective is limited.

Day 5 — Trust the Word That Never Fails

Key Verse:

“So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty.” — Isaiah 55:11

Reflection

When life doesn't make sense, where do we turn?

We can search for answers everywhere—our own reasoning, other people's opinions, circumstances, or even our emotions. But God gives us something more certain: **His Word**.

Isaiah compares God's Word to rain and snow that water the earth and accomplish their purpose. God's Word does not return empty. It does what He sends it to do.

Scripture corrects us, trains us, exposes our hearts, and gives us hope. Most importantly, God's Word points us to Jesus.

John tells us that the Word became flesh. The Word of God is not merely information written in a book. God's promises ultimately lead us to Christ, the One who died and rose again for our salvation.

When things don't make sense, we don't look to the cross because it magically answers every question. We look to the cross because there we see the One who loves us and has promised never to abandon us.

The cross reminds us that God has already demonstrated His love for us in Christ. We may not know what tomorrow holds, but we know who holds us.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, when I don't understand what You are doing, help me trust what You have promised. Keep me rooted in Your Word and focused on Your cross. Give me the peace that passes understanding and the faith to trust You one day at a time. Amen.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Isaiah 55:6–11

BIG IDEA: When life doesn't make sense, we may not understand God's ways, but we can trust His promises. His Word calls us to repentance and points us to the cross, where we see His mercy and love.

OPENING QUESTION

What is something in life that you simply don't understand—and what makes it frustrating or funny?

1. OUR WAYS CAN LEAD US AWAY FROM GOD

Read Isaiah 55:6–7

Isaiah calls God's people to "seek the Lord" and to return to Him. We can easily push God toward the margins of our lives when things are going well—or become so consumed by our problems that we forget He is with us.

Repentance is more than simply saying, "I'm sorry." It is turning away from our sinful ways and returning to the Lord. The good news is that God does not respond to repentant sinners with reluctance. He promises to "**have compassion**" and to "**abundantly pardon.**"

Supporting verses: Psalm 34:18; 1 John 1:8–9; Acts 3:19

Discuss:

- What are some things that can slowly push God toward the margins of our lives?
 - Why can suffering sometimes cause us to seek God more intentionally?
 - What does genuine repentance look like in everyday life?
 - What comfort do you find in God's promise to abundantly pardon?
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2. GOD'S WAYS ARE HIGHER THAN OUR WAYS

Read Isaiah 55:8–9

There are moments when we ask, “**God, why did You allow this?**” We may not understand suffering, death, unanswered prayers, or why life unfolds the way it does.

God does not promise to explain every “why.” Instead, He reminds us that His perspective is greater than ours. We see one moment; God sees the whole story. We see the problem; He sees what we cannot yet see.

Most importantly, we see God's character at the cross. What looked like defeat became victory. What looked like death became life. What looked like foolishness became the power of God for salvation.

Supporting verses: Matthew 5:45; Romans 8:28; 1 Corinthians 1:18; Romans 8:32

Discuss:

- When have you experienced a situation you could not understand?
 - Why is it important to distinguish between **trusting God** and **understanding God**?
 - How does the cross give us confidence when our circumstances don't make sense?
 - What does Jesus' death tell us about how seriously God takes sin—and how deeply He loves sinners?
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3. GOD'S WORD ACCOMPLISHES HIS PURPOSE

Read Isaiah 55:10–11

God compares His Word to rain and snow that water the earth. His Word does not return empty. It accomplishes what He sends it to accomplish.

Scripture does more than give us information. God uses His Word to expose our sin, call us to repentance, strengthen our faith, and point us to Jesus. The gospel is “**the power of God for salvation.**”

When life doesn't make sense, we don't need a secret answer hidden somewhere. We have God's promises. We have His Word. We have Christ crucified and risen for us.

Supporting verses: Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16–17; Romans 1:16; John 1:1–3

Discuss:

- How has God's Word challenged or corrected you?
 - How has Scripture brought comfort or hope during a difficult season?
 - What is the difference between using the Bible merely to find answers and receiving God's promises through His Word?
 - What promise from God's Word do you need to hold onto right now?
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TAKE IT HOME

When life doesn't make sense, remember:

1. **Return to the Lord.** Confess your sin and receive His forgiveness.
2. **Trust His ways.** You may not understand what God is doing, but you can trust who He is.
3. **Cling to His Word.** His promises do not return empty.
4. **Look to the cross.** The cross assures us that God's love is greater than our circumstances.

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

When life doesn't make sense, help us trust You even when we cannot understand Your ways. Forgive us for the times we have pushed You to the margins of our lives and trusted ourselves instead of You. Turn our hearts back to You and strengthen our faith through Your Word.

Thank You for Your abundant mercy and for the forgiveness You have given us through Jesus Christ. When we face suffering, uncertainty, or unanswered questions, remind us of the cross and the great love You have shown us there. Give us peace that surpasses understanding and keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Amen.