

# FIRST things FIRST

## Daily Devotionals

September 15-21, 2025

Devotions prepared for you to use in your Quiet Time with the Lord and are designed to prepare you for the sermon next Sunday.

**Monday, Sept. 15** **The Joy of Being Found**

**Read Scripture:** Zephaniah 3:14-17

In a world that often measures worth by achievement or visibility, Jesus reminds us that heaven celebrates not the powerful or the perfect—but the one who turns back. The joy of being found isn't reserved for the righteous; it's for the weary, the wandering, the ones who thought they'd gone too far. Imagine that—God singing over you. Not scolding, not sighing in disappointment, but rejoicing. This is a party thrown in your honor. Whether you feel lost in grief, distraction, or doubt, know this: your return sparks celebration.

**Prayer:** God, thank You for seeking me and celebrating me.

**Tuesday, Sept. 16** **The Search That Never Stops**

**Read Scripture:** Colossians 3:23-25

Jesus points out a simple but powerful truth: how we handle the little things in life reveals who we truly are. If we cut corners, make excuses, or act lazy with the small tasks, why should we expect God (or anyone else) to trust us with greater responsibility? On the other hand, when we approach even the ordinary moments of life with faithfulness and integrity, we reflect the heart of Christ. This means that no job is too small or insignificant. Every action can become an act of worship when it's done with love and honesty.

**Prayer:** Lord, give me a heart that is faithful in the little things.

**Wednesday, Sept. 17** **The Worth of One**

**Passage:** 1 Peter 4:7-10

Jesus teaches that money and possessions are temporary tools that give us the opportunity to show whether we can be trusted with something far bigger. God's kingdom. The way we handle what we've been given on earth reflects how we value God's eternal gifts. In the end, stewardship is not about keeping or losing—it's about investing in what lasts. When we see ourselves as managers of God's grace, we realize that every gift we've been given carries great weight.

**Prayer:** Gracious Lord, remind me that everything I have is yours.

**Thursday Sept. 18**

**Repentance as Return**

**Read Scripture:** Joel 2:13-14

Repentance is often misunderstood as groveling or guilt, but the shepherd doesn't scold the sheep—he rejoices. Joel reminds us that God is “slow to anger and abounding in love.” Repentance is not about punishment—it's about restoration. It's not a transaction—it's a reunion. If you've been carrying shame or fear, hear this: God is not waiting to condemn you. He's waiting to welcome you.

**Prayer:** Gracious God, draw me back to You.

**Friday, Sept. 19**

**Choosing Your Master**

**Read Scripture:** Matthew 6:28-34

Jesus gets to the heart of our loyalties: we can only serve one true master. Money is not evil but when it becomes our security blanket, it starts to rule us. We may tell ourselves we just want comfort, stability, or a little extra, but slowly our decisions, priorities, and even our identity can begin to revolve around it. Jesus reminds us that chasing after money and chasing after God's kingdom don't mix. We will eventually have to choose. When we seek first the kingdom of God, we can trust that God will take care of our needs.

**Prayer:** God, Help me to see you as my only Master and to seek Your kingdom first in every choice I make.

**Saturday, Sept. 20**

**Resources for Impact**

**Scripture:** Matthew 6:19-20

This verse from Jesus can sound strange at first—“use worldly wealth to gain friends.” But what He's teaching is about perspective. Wealth is temporary; it can be here today and gone tomorrow. But how we use it can have eternal consequences. If we spend everything only on ourselves, what do we really gain? If we use our resources to bless others, we are building something that will outlast this world. Jesus also reminds us that our treasures on earth may not last. Our giving today becomes a testimony that points others toward Christ, and one day we may discover that the impact of our generosity welcomed others into eternal life with Him.

**Prayer:** Lord, help me to hold loosely to the things of this world and to use the resources you've given me for your glory.

**Sunday, Sept. 21**

**Greedy?**

Worship at 10:00am

Luke 16:1-13

by Pastor Clint Phillips