

FIRST things FIRST

Daily Devotionals

October 20-26, 2025

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

Monday, Oct. 20 **A Heart That Knows Its Need**

Scripture: Psalm 51:16-17 and Luke 18:9-14

King David learned that God isn't moved by perfect performances, but by honest hearts. When we admit our failures and come before Him with humility, He meets us with mercy. The tax collector in Jesus' story came broken, ashamed, and desperate for grace—and God heard his prayer. Our weakness doesn't repel God; it invites His healing presence. What parts of your life have you tried to fix before bringing them to God? **Prayer:** Lord, give me a humble heart that admits its need for You every day. Amen.

Tuesday, Oct. 21 **More Grace for the Humble**

Scripture: James 4:6-7 and Luke 18:9-14

Pride quietly tells us we can handle life on our own. It blinds us to our need for grace. The Pharisee stood tall and confident; the tax collector bowed low and found mercy. God gives more grace to those who know they need it. When we stop trying and start surrendering, His strength fills the empty places we've been trying to fill ourselves. Where have you been depending on your own strength instead of God's?

Prayer: God, help me lay down pride and receive the grace You freely give. Amen.

Wednesday, Oct. 22 **Seeing Clearly**

Scripture: Matthew 7:3-5 and Luke 18:9-14

The Pharisee's prayer was full of comparisons—he thanked God that he wasn't like others. But spiritual pride prevents us from seeing clearly. When we measure ourselves against others, we stop seeing our own need for God's mercy. True humility begins when we stop judging others and allow God to examine our hearts. When we do, His Spirit not only shows our weaknesses but transforms them through grace. Is there someone you've been judging or comparing yourself to?

Prayer: Lord, help me see myself clearly and others with compassion. Amen.

Thursday Oct. 23

The Posture of True Prayer

Scripture: Micah 6:8 and Luke 18:9-14

The tax collector stood at a distance, eyes lowered, because he knew he didn't deserve mercy—and yet, mercy found him anyway. God isn't impressed by big words or flawless prayers; He listens for sincerity. Micah reminds us that walking humbly with God is what He truly desires. When we pray with hearts that are real and repentant, God leans close. How do you approach prayer. Do you do it because you think you're supposed to, or do you pray from the heart?

Prayer: Humble my heart, Lord, that I may walk closely with You each day. Amen.

Friday, Oct. 24

Boasting in the Cross

Scripture: Galatians 6:14 and Luke 18:9-14

The Pharisee took pride in his religious accomplishments, but Paul reminds us that there's only one thing worth boasting about—the cross. Everything we are and everything we hope for comes from what Jesus did there. Our good works are valuable only as responses to His grace, never as proof of our worth. When we boast in the cross, we put Jesus back at the center, and our hearts find peace. What do you tend to take pride in spiritually?

Prayer: Jesus, thank You that my worth is found in You alone. Amen.

Saturday, Oct. 25

Exalted by Grace

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:6 and Luke 18:9-14

The tax collector left the temple justified because he trusted God's mercy instead of his own merit. God still works that way today. When we stop striving to prove ourselves and choose instead to rest in His grace, He lifts us in His perfect time. Humility isn't thinking less of ourselves—it's thinking more about God's power and goodness. The hands that hold the universe are strong enough to lift you too.

Prayer: God, teach me to trust Your timing and to rest in Your mercy. Lift me up by Your grace. Amen.

Sunday, Oct. 26

Leaving the Judgment

Worship at 10:00am

Luke 18:9-14

by Pastor Clint Phillips