

Daily Practices

Week of 10/25/21 - 10/29/21

DAY 1 // DAILY PRACTICES

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, please help me to slow down enough in this moment to be fully present to myself and to you. Please open my heart to receive what you want me to hear; and please empower me by your Spirit to live the way that you are asking me to live.

SILENCE: Set a timer for two minutes. Sit in silence and bring your attention to the presence of God with you right now.

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 21:-21-24

21 Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life, righteousness, and honor. **22** A wise man scales the city of the mighty and brings down the stronghold in which they trust. **23** Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble. **24** “Scoffer” is the name of the arrogant, haughty man who acts with arrogant pride.

DEVOTIONAL: In a fast-paced world that values success, it is easy to put our trust in our careers, money, possessions, or accolades. We want to find our identity in something so we find a way to control our identity. But seeking this control only makes someone act in arrogant pride. Solomon calls this person a “scoffer” and says that there is no life living in such a way. True life is found when we pursue righteousness and kindness. Solomon would know this principle first hand. He had everything. He was at the top. He had power. He had possessions. Yet, his life wasn’t found in any of those things. For us today, we are able to pursue righteousness and kindness through the lens of Jesus. He came before us and set the example for righteousness; but then he took it a step further and placed his earned righteousness over us so that God sees Jesus’ righteousness when he looks at us. True life isn’t found in achieving. It is found by resting in the earned righteousness of Jesus.

RESPONSE: Take two minutes to respond to the scripture, devotional, or the Holy Spirit’s prompting. Respond by writing in a journal, by meditating on a specific thought, or by talking with God.

SILENCE: Set a timer for two minutes. Sit in silence and bring your attention to what God is speaking to you.

DAY 2 // DAILY PRACTICES

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, please help me to slow down enough in this moment to be fully present to myself and to you. Please open my heart to receive what you want me to hear; and please empower me by your Spirit to live the way that you are asking me to live.

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SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 21:25-31

25 The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labor. **26** All day long he craves and craves, but the righteous gives and does not hold back. **27** The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; how much more when he brings it with evil intent. **28** A false witness will perish, but the word of a man who hears will endure. **29** A wicked man puts on a bold face, but the upright gives thought to his ways. **30** No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel can avail against the Lord. **31** The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord.

DEVOTIONAL: God redefines wealth, not as something to be accumulated for an identity, but as something to be stewarded and given away. This means that we don't have to find our identity in our bank account. We are free to work hard with passion, if we are able. This means that we don't just have to find a job that will make a lot of money. We can work with intention and with our God-given passions. Then, when we do make money, we don't need to keep it for ourselves. We can, and should, give our resources away. Giving away parts of what we have been given is a practice that helps us declare that our identity isn't found in our wealth. God is so much bigger than the money that we make. How are you practicing generosity with what you have been given?

RESPONSE: Take two minutes to respond to the scripture, devotional, or the Holy Spirit's prompting. Respond by writing in a journal, by meditating on a specific thought, or by talking with God.

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DAY 3 // DAILY PRACTICES

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, please help me to slow down enough in this moment to be fully present to myself and to you. Please open my heart to receive what you want me to hear; and please empower me by your Spirit to live the way that you are asking me to live.

SILENCE: Set a timer for two minutes. Sit in silence and bring your attention to the presence of God with you right now.

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 22:1-5

1 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold. **2** The rich and the poor meet together; the Lord is the Maker of them all. **3** The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it. **4** The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life. **5** Thorns and snares are in the way of the crooked; whoever guards his soul will keep far from them.

DEVOTIONAL: Rich or poor—God is the “maker of them all.” Who we are is found in the character of our personhood, not in the amount of wealth we have accumulated. Solomon, who again had everything you could imagine, continues to drive this point home to us. Happiness and life isn’t found in money, power, or possessions. Now that may seem easy for someone that has everything, and it’s true, there are privileges to having more; however, Jesus says that it is actually more difficult for the rich to enter the kingdom because they don’t believe that they need anything. God is incredibly consistent with how he talks about wealth—whether rich or poor, true life is found in submitting to Christ in humility. But this submission isn’t a one-time thing. It is a continual posture of humility toward God. Whether rich or poor, how are you humbly postured toward Christ today?

RESPONSE: Take two minutes to respond to the scripture, devotional, or the Holy Spirit’s prompting. Respond by writing in a journal, by meditating on a specific thought, or by talking with God.

SILENCE: Set a timer for two minutes. Sit in silence and bring your attention to what God is speaking to you.

DAY 4 // DAILY PRACTICES

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, please help me to slow down enough in this moment to be fully present to myself and to you. Please open my heart to receive what you want me to hear; and please empower me by your Spirit to live the way that you are asking me to live.

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SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 22:7-11

7 The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender. **8** Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of his fury will fail. **9** Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor. **10** Drive out a scoffer, and strife will go out, and quarreling and abuse will cease. **11** He who loves purity of heart, and whose speech is gracious, will have the king as his friend.

DEVOTIONAL: Solomon continues to talk about the rich and the poor. Here, he acknowledges the temptation for the rich to treat the poor unjustly. But blessing from God is found when the rich shares with the poor. Life isn't found in pride and arrogance. It is found in humility and grace toward other people. Arrogance doesn't breed healthy relationships. It causes turmoil and division. Humility and grace, from a pure heart, creates an environment that fosters connection with others. This is because we were created to model the trinity, which exists in a perfect loving relationship. Love requires a relationship. We can't love without relationship with God and others. So whatever may get in the way, which according to Solomon is oftentimes money, is a stumbling block to walking in true life. Whether you are rich or poor, how can you walk in true life by shedding the things that keep you from humbly connecting with others?

RESPONSE: Take a few minutes to respond to the scripture, devotional, or the Holy Spirit's prompting. Respond by writing in a journal, by meditating on a specific thought, or by talking with God.

SILENCE: Set a timer for two minutes. Sit in silence and bring your attention to what God is speaking to you.

DAY 5 // DAILY PRACTICES

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, please help me to slow down enough in this moment to be fully present to myself and to you. Please open my heart to receive what you want me to hear; and please empower me by your Spirit to live the way that you are asking me to live.

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SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 23:1-8

1 When you sit down to eat with a ruler, observe carefully what is before you, **2** and put a knife to your throat if you are given to appetite. **3** Do not desire his delicacies, for they are deceptive food. **4** Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist. **5** When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven. **6** Do not eat the bread of a man who is stingy; do not desire his delicacies, **7** for he is like one who is inwardly calculating. “Eat and drink!” he says to you, but his heart is not with you. **8** You will vomit up the morsels that you have eaten, and waste your pleasant words.

DEVOTIONAL: Solomon speaks to the one who is lavish and the one who is stingy. Either way, it is a part of our sinful tendencies to try to use people for our own gain. This is not the way of wisdom. God wants us to be in loving, humble relationships with others, not to use others through bribery or manipulation. The way of wisdom—seen fully in the way of Jesus—is found when we walk in a humble pursuit of love. We should give to others because we have experienced the love of Jesus in ways beyond recognition. We should be generous to others because we have been given generosity from God beyond our imagination. Only when we begin to receive God’s love and generosity, with all humility, then we will start to change the way that we interact with others. As you go to whatever is next in your day, sit for a few minutes and receive the comfort and love of the Holy Spirit, then turn your attention to how the Holy Spirit wants to convict you toward action as well.

RESPONSE: Take two minutes to respond to the scripture, devotional, or the Holy Spirit’s prompting. Respond by writing in a journal, by meditating on a specific thought, or by talking with God.

SILENCE: Set a timer for two minutes. Sit in silence and bring your attention to what God is speaking to you.