

## 5 Day Devotions, from Wednesday Worship, April 10, 2024

### Day 1: Living the Gospel Through Kindness

Genuine care and positivity are not just pleasant attributes but the very essence of living out one's faith. Reflecting on the life of a colleague named Jim, one is reminded of the profound impact that simple acts of kindness can have on a community. Jim's approach to pastoral care was not merely a duty but a heartfelt expression of the love of Christ. His laughter, his concern for others, and his warm embraces were tangible demonstrations of his faith. This kind of authenticity in one's walk with Christ is not about grand gestures but about the consistent, loving interactions that build up the body of Christ and reflect His light to the world.

"Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor." (Romans 12:9-10)

Reflection: Who in your life could use an act of kindness today, and how can you show them Christ's love through your actions?

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### Day 2: Becoming 'Real' Through Christ's Love

The journey to authenticity is not one of self-effort but of being transformed by the love of Jesus. The story of the Velveteen Rabbit, much like our own spiritual journey, shows that becoming 'real' is a process initiated and sustained by love. In the same way, our identity as children of God is not based on our achievements but on being loved by Him. This profound truth shapes our existence and frees us from the pressure of trying to earn our worth. As beloved children, we are called to rest in this identity and allow His love to make us more like Him each day.

"By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers." (1 John 3:16)

Reflection: How does understanding that you are 'real' and loved by Jesus change the way you view yourself and your interactions with others?

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### Day 3: Walking Transparently in God's Truth

The call to walk in the light of Christ is a call to authenticity and transparency in one's spiritual journey. The first chapter of 1 John emphasizes the importance of fellowship with God and others, which is only possible when one lives in the truth. This transparency is not just about avoiding sin but about actively pursuing a life that reflects God's light. It involves examining one's life, confessing shortcomings, and striving for genuine community where love and truth prevail.

"If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth." (1 John 1:6)

Reflection: What is one area in your life where you need to walk more transparently in God's truth, and what practical step can you take today to move towards that transparency?

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#### **Day 4: Extending Grace Beyond Boundaries**

Jesus' love knows no boundaries, and His interaction with the woman with the issue of blood is a testament to this extravagant grace. Despite societal and religious barriers, Jesus showed compassion and affirmed the woman's faith. This account challenges believers to extend grace and love to all, regardless of their circumstances or past. It is a call to embody the inclusive love of Christ, reaching out to those who may feel marginalized or unworthy.

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

(2 Corinthians 12:9)

Reflection: Is there someone you have been hesitant to extend grace to because of societal or personal prejudices? How can you show them Christ's love this week?

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#### **Day 5: Embracing Our Worth in God's Love**

Accepting God's love and grace is not a passive act but an active response that shapes our identity and purpose. This acceptance liberates us from the world's definitions of worth and success, allowing us to find our true value in how God sees us—loved, valued, and enough. It is in this acceptance that we experience transformation and freedom, as we live out our calling as God's beloved children.

"For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'" (Romans 8:15)

Reflection: What is one way you can actively respond to God's love today, and how can it shape your understanding of your worth and purpose?