



A 5-Day Devotional Guide

From the series The Way of Jesus

Focus:

Jesus redefines greatness, not by power, but through humble service. This week, we explore how acts of love, big and small, reflect our discipleship. Whether you're just beginning the journey or walking it for decades, Christ calls us all to serve.

Weekly Challenge:

Each day this week, perform one unseen act of service for someone, at home, work, church, or in your community. Let it be your prayer in action.

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Written for the Week of July 6, 2025, by Kevin St. Martin, Pastor of The Beacon:
A United Methodist Church

Day 1: The Example of Christ

Scripture

After he washed the disciples' feet, he put on his robes and returned to his place at the table. He said to them, "Do you know what I've done for you? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you speak correctly, because I am. If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other's feet. I have given you an example: Just as I have done, you also must do. I assure you, servants aren't greater than their master, nor are those who are sent greater than the one who sent them. Since you know these things, you will be happy if you do them. — John 13:12–17 (CEB)

Reflection

After washing His disciples' feet, Jesus asks, "Do you know what I've done for you?" This was no ordinary task. It was the work of a servant. Yet Jesus did it freely and lovingly, calling us to do the same. Serving others is not beneath us; it's the very way Jesus reveals God's love.

Questions

- What keeps you from embracing humble service?
- What would it look like if you served everyone with love??

Spiritual Practice

Sit quietly and remove your shoes. As you touch or look at your feet, reflect on Jesus washing the disciples' feet. Offer a prayer for each place your feet may take you today and ask God to guide your steps in service.

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for kneeling to serve even when You held all power. Teach me to serve others with that same humility and love. Amen.

Day 2: True Greatness

Scripture:

But that's not the way it will be with you. Whoever wants to be great among you will be your servant. Whoever wants to be first among you will be the slave of all, for the Human One[a] didn't come to be served but rather to serve and to give his life to liberate many people." — Mark 10:43–45 (CEB)

Reflection

In God's kingdom, leadership looks like servanthood. Jesus says, "Whoever wants to be great must be your servant." Service isn't weakness. It is the deepest form of strength. It shapes our character and makes space for God's grace to grow.

Questions

- What does it look like to lead by serving?
- Where might God be calling you to redefine what greatness looks like?

Spiritual Practice

Look at your hands and speak this blessing aloud:

"God, bless these hands for service. May they be used for healing, helping, and holding others in love."

As you go through your day, notice how your hands are used and give thanks for opportunities to serve.

Prayer

God, shape my ambition to reflect Jesus. Let my desire to lead begin with a desire to serve. Amen.

Day 3: Serving as Loving Yourself

Scripture:

You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only don't let this freedom be an opportunity to indulge your selfish impulses, but serve each other through love. All the Law has been fulfilled in a single statement: Love your neighbor as yourself. — Galatians 5:13–14 (CEB)

Reflection

Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, writes, "Serve each other through love... Love your neighbor as yourself." True service flows from a healthy sense of self-worth. When we know we are deeply loved by God, we can serve others not to prove our value, but to express the value we know we have from God.

Questions

- What is the difference between serving from overflow and serving from obligation?
- How might loving yourself impact the way you love and serve others?

Spiritual Practice

Stand in front of a mirror and say:

"I am loved by God. I do not have to earn worth through service. I serve because I am already loved."

Take a deep breath and ask God to let your love for yourself overflow into love for others..

Prayer

Lord, help me to see myself as You see me, worthy, beloved, enough. From that place, let my service be joyful. Amen.

Day 4: Serving When No One Sees

Scripture:

“Be careful that you don’t practice your religion in front of people to draw their attention. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. “Whenever you give to the poor, don’t blow your trumpet as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets so that they may get praise from people. I assure you, that’s the only reward they’ll get. But when you give to the poor, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing so that you may give to the poor in secret. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you.

— Matthew 6:1–4 (CEB)

Reflection

Jesus reminds us to serve quietly, not for applause, but for God. Hidden acts of service cultivate humility and deepen our trust that God sees what others may miss.

Questions

- When have you served in secret? How did it feel?
- What might change if you let go of wanting recognition for your service?

Spiritual Practice

Do something kind today without telling anyone. This could be cleaning up after someone, leaving a note of encouragement, or silently praying for someone. Afterward, spend a few moments thanking God for seeing what others do not.

Prayer

God who sees in secret, help me serve without needing attention. Let my quiet acts be worship to You. Amen.

Day 5: A Living Sacrifice

Scripture:

So, brothers and sisters, because of God's mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service. Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature.

— Romans 12:1–2 (CEB)

Reflection

Paul urges us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. Service is not just something we do occasionally. It becomes a lifestyle of worship. In this way, our lives are transformed.

Questions

- What part of your daily life could become an offering of service to God?
- How is God transforming you through service?

Spiritual Practice

Offer your body to God through simple movement:

- Raise your hands in surrender
- Open your palms in offering
- Bow your head in humility

Pray, "God, I give You my body as a living sacrifice. Use me today in ordinary ways to serve You."

Prayer

Holy God, take my ordinary life and make it sacred. Use my hands, my words, and my time to serve others with joy. Amen.

Closing Prayer for the Week

Jesus, You took up the towel when others sought thrones. Help me to follow You with a servant's heart, loving others, loving myself, and giving without fear. May my life echo Your humility and shine with Your love. Amen.