

**Daily Reflection on Scripture**  
**Week of May 5**  
**Greater Things Can Happen**  
**Week 1**



**Sunday May 5**

*Scripture: John 14:12 The person who trusts me will not only do what I'm doing but even greater things, because I, on my way to the Father, am giving you the same work to do that I've been doing. You can count on it.*

**Morning Prayer:** God, how can this scripture be true? I think of all the miraculous things Jesus did with his life and then look at my own life and have to say, there is no way I can do what Jesus did. Am I missing something here? I remember Jesus teaching that the greatest thing we can ever do or be is love. Is love the greatest of them all? If so, that's what I want to do today. I want to do great things with love. I want to love in greater ways than ever before. I want to learn how to forgive and love my enemies. I want to learn how to love myself and be rid of any shame. I want to learn how to love my friends and family in greater ways. I want to do great things with my life today by loving others without conditions. If I practice love as Jesus did, then I will do greater things. May it be so.

**Noon Text:** Love is the greatest thing you can do. Love others as you love yourself. Love yourself as God loves you and you will do great things. Love is contagious.

**Evening Text:** God, as I prepare to rest I take in a deep breath and say thank you. Each breath is full of Your love. All night long I will sleep while breathing in Your love.

**Monday May 6**

*Scripture: I Corinthians 13:13 Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.*

**Morning Prayer:** God, sometimes it is challenging to hold on to faith, hope and love in what sometimes seems like a chaotic world, but I want to hold tightly to these qualities. I know that only a life anchored in deep faith and unwavering hope can bring lasting peace and happiness. I sense that the path to cultivating these qualities is to see love as the highest value of all, and I do my best to quiet my mind and heart so that my natural resting place is always a place of love for myself, for others and for You. Teach me your ways that I might walk in Your light and love in all situations. Help me to do great things today through small acts of love. May it be so.

**Noon Text:** Regardless of your circumstances, faith, hope, and love are enduring values. Those three values will help you do great things. Nothing is greater than love.

**Evening Text:** God, today I tried to live with hope in my heart, extend love for all people, and keep the faith. Now, faith, hope and love will hold me as I prepare to rest.

## **Tuesday May 7**

*Scripture: Matthew 23:11-12 Do you want to stand out? Then step down. Be a servant. If you puff yourself up, you'll get the wind knocked out of you. But if you're content to simply be yourself, your life will count for plenty.*

**Morning Prayer:** God, without knowing Jesus and the stories of his life, this scripture would make little sense. It is certainly counter to much of what our culture teaches. We are rewarded for coming in first, for winning – at sports, in academics, at work and in life. And there is nothing wrong with healthy competition, but to truly win in life I must become a servant leader, to be willing to humble myself to serve others. As I go about my day help me be mindful of those times when I become puffed up with self-importance. Help me be aware of the many ways I can serve instead of being served. May it be so.

**Noon Text:** Take a moment; reflect on your morning. Have you approached your day with an attitude of a servant? Let your life count by leading with an attitude of humility.

**Evening Text:** God, in my encounters today I have tried to focus on simply being myself, to serve wherever I could. Now I can rest to rise again tomorrow to do the same.

## **Wednesday May 8**

*Scripture: Hebrews 13:16 Make sure you don't take things for granted and go slack in working for the common good; share what you have with others. God takes particular pleasure in acts of worship—a different kind of "sacrifice"—that take place in kitchen and workplace and on the streets.*

**Morning Prayer:** Lord each day as I live my life in community, help my priority be the good of others. Let my words and my actions toward those in my path be a blessing to all. Thank You that You have given me so much that I can share of myself and still have more than enough. You are a giving God, whose love and grace knows no end. Let my today and my tomorrow be an example of You to others. May it be so.

**Noon text:** Give of yourself! God will ensure you receive so much more! Take a minute and remember all He has given.

**Evening Text:** Today I gave of myself so that others may prosper. At my home, at work, and in my community. May my tomorrows be like today.

## **Thursday May 9**

*Scripture: Galatians 5:13-14 It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom.*

**Morning Prayer:** God, sometimes I sit and try to figure out who and what You are. You are God. What does that mean? Have I been trying too hard to answer the question? There is no doubt in my mind that You are the greatest source of life. I believe life, in all its many forms, comes from You. That is too big to understand. And yet today I read that everything I need to know about You is simply and profoundly summed up in a single sentence - Love others as I love myself. If I practice that, then I am free. I am free to love as You love. I am free to create possibilities for new life. I am free to break down walls that divide, just like Jesus did. Through acts of love I am being set free to be fully alive.

Love is the source of life. May I experience the great power of love as I love others as much as I love myself. May it be so.

**Noon Text:** Look around. Look beyond your negative thoughts and see the beauty of life surrounding you. Love is the source of it all. Love others and new life is yours.

**Evening Text:** God, as I prepare to rest help me to love myself more deeply. Help me to remember that no matter what happened today, nothing can keep You from loving me.

### **Friday May 10**

*Scripture: Mark 10:44-45a Whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others.*

**Morning Prayer:** God, I confess that too many times I have failed to follow the example of Jesus. My first thought is not always how can I serve. Too many times I sit by, waiting instead for 'someone else to do it' or think 'it's not my job'. Today help me to think instead about how I can be present to and serve others – something as simple as speaking a kind word or offering a smile, listening to someone's story, opening the door, carrying someone's groceries, mowing my neighbor's lawn or walking their dog. The opportunities to serve are endless. Let me humble myself to follow in the way of Jesus and serve others. May it be so.

**Noon Text:** Do you find it hard to humble yourself and serve? Just remember that Jesus modeled this behavior. Follow in the steps and actions of Jesus. Be humble, serve.

**Evening Text:** God, I prepare to rest, secure in Your love. This week I've tried to develop a more serving, humble heart. Even when I slipped up I know You still love me.

### **Saturday May 11**

*Scripture: Mark 16:15 Go into the world. Go everywhere and announce the Message of God's good news to one and all.*

**Morning Prayer:** God, how can I announce Your message of good news today? It sounds daunting. Who am I to be the bringer of Your good news to others? What do I have to offer? I don't have a degree in theology, I don't even know how to pronounce some of the words in the Bible, so how can I be the bringer of Your good news? As I ask that question I remember the readings, the prayers and the texts of this past week. All week long, it has been clear, there is only one word I need know and that is love. Is that really all I need to know to share Your good news with others? If so, then help me to do small acts of love today, believing that every small act of love is the greatest thing I can do to share Your good news with everyone I meet. Transform my debilitating thoughts about myself into life giving acts of love so that one by one the whole world will be transformed by your good news of love for all people. May it be so.

**Noon Text:** Take in a deep breath saying, I am God's love with skin on. Slowly release the breath saying, I can do great things through love. Great things come from love.

**Evening Text:** God, it's the close of the day; it's the close of the week. Yet Your love never closes. This evening I open my heart to Your love so that I can wake up renewed.