

**Daily Reflection on Scripture**  
**Week of September 8**  
**Our Story: A Heroic Journey**  
**Week 1**



**Sunday September 8**

*Scripture: Luke 5:27-28 Jesus went out and saw a man named Levi at his work collecting taxes. Jesus said, "Come along with me." And he did—walked away from everything and went with him.*

**Morning Prayer:** God, how can this be? How can someone just walk away from everything to follow Jesus? Maybe I am being too literal. Maybe there's something more here for me to learn. Maybe I do need to hear Jesus say, "Come follow me today". What would that look like? What do I need to leave behind to follow Jesus? Is it my pride, my self-centeredness, my fears, my unknowing, my lack of trust? I can't help but believe that Levi in today's scripture also wrestled with such thoughts. Thoughts that keep me stuck on the negative. Thoughts that hold me back from living the adventure of faith. If faith is the evidence of moving forward while not knowing, not seeing, and even not believing at times, then my prayer is for a faith that responds to Jesus calling me to leave behind anything that holds me back from living the adventurous life of faith. Help me to walk into the day with the assurance that when Jesus calls me to follow, it's for the purpose of finding myself along the way. May it be so.

**Morning Text:** Faith is a gift from God. Faith is the ability to go forward without answers. Faith is trusting that God is with you. Face today with more faith than fears.

**Noon Text:** Many times the thing you fear the most holds the very thing you are looking for. Is there a fear you need to step into? Ask God for strength to face your fears.

**Evening Text:** God, as the adventure of the day winds down, I need to rest. Help me to rest in the assurance that faith, trust, in You is how I can best prepare for tomorrow.

**Monday September 9**

*Scripture: Deuteronomy 31:8 God is striding ahead of you. God is right there with you. God won't let you down; God won't leave you. Don't be intimidated. Don't worry.*

**Morning Prayer:** God, this morning I need to hear the truth and the power of this affirmation that You are always with me. You are above and below me, before and behind me, within and without. No exceptions, no exclusions. No matter what else happens in my life, You are right here with me every moment. I am thankful for Your presence because it gives me strength to face circumstances that are difficult and troubling. It gives me courage to speak truth at all times, even when it feels risky to do so. It gives me hope that I can withstand whatever comes. I will hold this promise when I feel intimidated by circumstances or people who would try to make me feel small and insignificant. I am loved by You. You will never leave me. I love You with my whole heart and offer this day of my life to You and others as a gift of gratitude. May it be so.

**Morning Text:** God is with you always. You can face whatever comes today with hope and courage in your heart. Take joy in that truth, knowing you are never alone.

**Noon Text:** Take a moment to find a quiet place within yourself. When you connect to this place you are connecting to the presence that is always with you. Breathe it in.

**Evening Text:** Today I have felt Your constant presence. Now I release all that this day has brought. I can rest knowing that even as I sleep, You are here. Thank you.

## **Tuesday September 10**

*Scripture: 1 Peter 2:21-22 This is the kind of life you've been invited into, the kind of life Christ lived. He suffered everything that came his way so you would know that it could be done, and also know how to do it, step-by-step.*

**Morning Prayer:** God, how often do I decline the invitation to this incredible life, thinking that it is too hard, or that I can't live up to the life of Jesus or that I have a better way? How many opportunities have I missed by ignoring or disregarding a call to journey with Christ? Although answering the call may not always be easy, ultimately it leads me to living my life in sync with You, experiencing Your unlimited love, living a life filled with hope. Help me to listen to the call in my life that will lead me to this place. Help me to find the courage to step away from what seems to be a comfortable life, to take the risks of a life filled with endless possibilities of experiencing and sharing Your grace. May it be so.

**Morning Text:** God as I awaken this morning let me be aware of the way I am being called to answer the invitation to journey with You, a journey that leads to transformation.

**Noon Text:** Where or through whom are you hearing God's call today? Slow down and listen then have the courage to step away from the familiar to journey in faith.

**Evening Text:** God, my day is ending. I am grateful for Your grace that sustained me through challenges I faced today. It is in that grace that I can rest and renew my soul.

## **Wednesday September 11**

*Scripture: John 1:6-8 There once was a man, his name John, sent by God to point out the way to the Life-Light. He came to show everyone where to look, who to believe in. John was not himself the Light; he was there to show the way to the Light.*

**Morning Prayer:** God, I clearly see in today's scripture that John had a distinct purpose. He was to introduce Jesus to the world. Isn't that my purpose as well? Aren't I to be living my life in a way that points others to Your unconditional love, unlimited welcome and unwavering hope? I believe it is, and so my prayer is for You to help me stay the course. Through rough and smooth, thin and thick, joy and sorrow help me to see all of it as the journey of life that ultimately leads back time and time again to Your unconditional love. John's purpose was to pave the way for Jesus. Jesus' purpose was to show us that we can love, welcome and give hope to one another just as he did. Help me to live into that purpose as well. May it be so!

**Morning Text:** Each of us have a purpose to discover. In one way or another your purpose points to something bigger than yourself. Today is a day to discover more.

**Noon Text:** Struggles are how we grow. Struggles reveal something about us on the inside. Don't run from struggles. Instead listen to them. What are they saying about you?

**Evening Text:** God tonight I rest knowing that You are with me all the time. So I breathe in the truth that You were with me all day and now Your presence can help me to rest.

## **Thursday September 12**

*Scripture: Mark 8:34-37 Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead.... Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to saving yourself, your true self. What good would it do to get everything you want and lose you, the real you? What could you ever trade your soul for?*

**Morning Prayer:** God, help me to see the things that are holding me back from turning my will and my life over to You and allowing You to help me find my way. Help me see the things I need to surrender. Help me see with open eyes of faith what is possible. I can't help but believe that when Jesus' followers walked away from all of their things, they also walked away from the fears that their minds had instilled in them. It appears that in stripping away the very essence of what they thought they were, they were able to see new possibilities and hope. God help me to see what I need to shed in order to move forward with wide open eyes to see and live with new possibilities in the next adventure of awakening. May it be so.

**Morning Text:** Today be awake to new possibilities on the adventure of this day. Listen and you will hear. Look and you will see. Exercise your faith and all will be well.

**Noon Text:** How am I living into my True Self of God's compassion, forgiveness and love? Where do I struggle the most? God, through the struggles may I be transformed.

**Evening Text:** As I close this day I am comforted by the progress I made in trusting God's guidance and wisdom. Now, I can rest well knowing I am forever loved by God.

## **Friday September 13**

*Scripture: Isaiah 43:8-19 Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

**Morning Prayer:** God, it is sometimes hard not to dwell on things that are in the past. Yes, we should learn from our mistakes but sometimes I get bogged down, stuck in that place and not able to move forward. Help me to hold on to the lessons learned from the past but then to release whatever might be holding me back from following You into an even greater adventure on this journey of faith. Help me not be blinded by my past so much that I fail to see Your new thing. I put my faith and trust in You to be with me when it sometimes seems that I am alone in the wilderness. I am never alone because wherever I am You are with me. May it be so.

**Morning Text:** Awaken this morning to God's new thing. Trust in God and release the baggage of your past to embrace God's love and grace that will sustain you.

**Noon Text:** Pause to reflect. Are you dwelling too much in the past to see what God has for you today? Look around and give thanks for God's new thing all around you.

**Evening Text:** God as I come to rest I reflect on what took place today, the lessons learned. I release them to You as I rest and renew my soul in You to prepare for tomorrow.

## **Saturday September 14**

*Scripture: Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; God is the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all.*

**Morning Prayer:** The first time I heard this verse, God, was early in my spiritual journey, maybe before I even realized I was on one. I thought to myself "how can I trust someone I cannot see, hear,

or touch?" Over time, I've learned that when I quiet my mind, I am able to hear Your spirit within me. I create so much noise in my mind, body, and soul that its difficult to hear and feel Your presence. The challenge for me, God, has always been slowing down, stepping away from distractions, purposely making space for me to recognize and hear when You're speaking to me and leading me in a direction that best serves what You desire for me. Help me God to intentionally take time, even if on a given day it's only five minutes, to step away from the noise and clutter of my life, so that I can recenter on You. May it always be so.

**Morning Text:** Begin the day by spending a few moments to center. Feel God's presence in you. Trust that God is with you all day. Recenter throughout your day as needed.

**Noon Text:** Take stock of your day. If the tension is building, take a moment to step away and quiet your mind. Take in a deep breath and then slowly release the tension.

**Evening Text:** Today is done. You did your best to be centered in God's presence. Now rest trusting that God's spirit within is with you and will rise with you in the morning.