



# FIGHT

## DAY 1 DISTRACTIONS

Did you know that every day has a purpose? Did you know that with every single day there is something new for you to learn or accomplish, or a way for you to grow? You might not. You might think that life is boring. You might think that you are just killing time until you “grow up.” But when you choose to follow Jesus, this is not the case.

Read John 10:10:

*“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”*

This is Jesus talking. In case you didn’t catch it, in the second half of the verse He is saying that He wants to give you a life you never even dreamed possible. The thing is, though, this life may not look exactly like you think it does; so in order to find this “abundant” life, we must first give our lives to Jesus and let Him be in control of our relationships, our actions, our choices, our hobbies and everything else. You may be thinking, “But wait... if I give Jesus control of my life He might take something that I like away from me.” You are right. But if He tells you to get rid of something, it’s because He knows it is only a distraction that is keeping you from fulfilling your purpose in Him – and His purpose is more exciting and fulfilling than anything else. What is that purpose? It is helping others around you come to know Jesus. Let’s say you like to play video games. You like it so much that you don’t really care about studying the Bible or telling people about Jesus. Why? Because your desire in your heart to accomplish something great is getting satisfied by beating a level or two. This is something God might want you to get rid of in your life. It may be hard, but believe this - any time you give up something for Jesus you get less stress, more joy, and more satisfaction than you ever got from the thing you “lost.” One last thing: that voice in your head telling you that you do not want to give your life to Jesus because of what you might have to give up, or that you just cannot give up everything once you do follow Jesus, is Satan lying to you. Satan is the thief in this verse. He wants to destroy your life. Satan wants to use distractions and anything else he can to keep you from following Jesus and telling others about him.



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Ask yourself: Do I want to let Satan win in my life? Where am I currently letting him win? What could happen if I give up everything for Jesus? Whose life might change? What could happen if I don't?

Today, take the steps to begin to give everything to Jesus. Ask Him to give you direction so that you know what He wants you to do each and every day; then every single day, continually look for more distractions in your life until you are fully committed to the things of God. It might even help to write them down or post them on a mirror so you don't forget and accidentally pick them back up again. Because again, you do not want the distractions – especially since it means missing out on fully experiencing what Jesus wants for your life.



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## DAY 2

### FEAR

Did you know that less than 50% of Christians ever share their faith? Why do you think this is? It's because they are afraid.

Fear is the number one thing that keeps people from living out their faith. "What if they don't like me anymore?" "What if they don't want to be my friend anymore?" "I can't go over there because it isn't safe." "I can't give because I need it and God won't meet my needs." So many excuses, and they all boil down to being afraid. But guess what? We are not supposed to be afraid. And when we are afraid it is a lie straight from Satan.

Read 2 Timothy 1:7:

*"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid,  
but gives us power, love and self-discipline."*

God has given us the Holy Spirit and with that we get power, the ability to love like the world has never seen, and the discipline to make the necessary sacrifices to follow Jesus. But we do not get fear. So any time you feel the tug in your heart to serve God but a voice in your head tells you why you should be afraid, know that voice is from Satan and you should reject those lies.

Here is another example. Read Luke 12:11-12:

*<sup>11</sup>"When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, <sup>12</sup>for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."*

Jesus is telling His disciples—and us in turn, that we may get into trouble. But not to worry; even if we get arrested and brought before people who could put us in jail or kill us, the Holy Spirit will give us the words to say. If you read history or even the book of Acts you can see how this happened again and again.

There are so many other scriptures telling us that we don't have to worry because people are rejecting Jesus and not us, or that God will provide because He even makes



sure the birds have food; you should take time to read those scriptures. But for now, remember one thing: You do not have to be afraid of anything. What are you afraid of right now? What is holding you back from living your faith? Get rid of it so that you can fully follow Jesus.





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## DAY 3

### THE SPIRITUAL IN THE DAY-TO-DAY

As you think about reaching your generation for Christ, I hope that God is stirring your heart with big ideas; but sometimes it's the smallest things that will make the greatest impact.

Read Luke 19:5:

*"When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.'"*

This is a familiar passage to many of you. This is part of the story of Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a wee little man and a wee little man was he (like the kids' song goes). He was also a tax collector, one of the most hated of all professions, and he was seen as one of the biggest sinners. Probably justifiably so. He wanted to see Jesus, though; so much so that he climbed up in a tree. The cool part is that Jesus wanted to see him. And what did Jesus do? He told Zacchaeus He was going to go hang out at His house. This means He was going to fellowship with Zacchaeus and his friends and probably share a meal with them. And this time changed the life of Zacchaeus and many people around him. So what can we take away from this? Besides the fact that we need to be spending at least some time with sinners so we can point them toward Jesus, we also need to realize that sometimes the small day-to-day things can have a huge impact.

Eat with someone. Buy their lunch. Say an encouraging word. Help them study. Listen to their struggles. Go for a run with them. These simple actions could lead someone to life change. All you have to do is ask God to help you to see them the way He sees them and what they need. Then ask for the courage to follow through and reach out. You will be amazed at the incredible connections you make and the life change you begin to see around you.



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## DAY 4

### COMMITTING FOR THE LONG HAUL

I can't think of anything worse than being called a quitter. But unfortunately a lot of Christians quit living out their faith. They may not actively run from God, but they definitely quit passionately pursuing ways to serve Him and change the lives of those around us. In fact, this occurs so much that we often have a reputation as quitters.

I experienced this once. I was trying to volunteer at a homeless shelter. Great thing, right? Well, when they found out which church I went to they almost didn't let me volunteer because so many people from my type of church (Baptist) had quit on them. But it is not just Baptists, it is all sorts of Christians. We start out passionately and then get pulled in all sorts of directions. We must break this cycle. We must stay committed for the long haul. This is our calling and the world desperately needs people who will live this out.

I heard recently that it takes seven years for a person of the Muslim faith to make the decision to accept Christ as their Savior. Seven years!!! That means that our work will not be easy and it may not always feel fruitful, but we continue to work because at the end of the day we know someone could come to know Jesus and there is nothing else worth working toward.

Read 2 Timothy 4:7-8:

*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."*

Read Matthew 25:23:

*"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"*



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These two scriptures are my prayer for you—that at the end of your life you can look back and say you did what you were supposed to and that when you stand before God He says, “Well done, my good and faithful servant.” Now what needs to change in your life so that can become a reality?



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## DAY 5 YOUR GIFTS

I want to speak/write something over your life.

God wants to use your unique talents, gifts, abilities, and influence to reach others for Christ. You may not believe that because you just generally lack self-confidence or because someone has said or done some hurtful things to you, but it is the truth. You have been uniquely gifted for the purpose of reaching the Gospel. And the bigger thing is that since you are unique, no one else can do your job.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27:

*<sup>12</sup>There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ. <sup>13</sup>We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit. And so we are formed into one body. It didn't matter whether we were Jews or Gentiles, slaves or free people. We were all given the same Spirit to drink. <sup>14</sup>So the body is not made up of just one part. It has many parts.*

*<sup>15</sup>Suppose the foot says, 'I am not a hand. So I don't belong to the body.' By saying this, it cannot stop being part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And suppose the ear says, 'I am not an eye. So I don't belong to the body.' By saying this, it cannot stop being part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, how could it hear? If the whole body were an ear, how could it smell? <sup>18</sup>God has placed each part in the body just as he wanted it to be. <sup>19</sup>If all the parts were the same, how could there be a body? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many parts. But there is only one body.*

*<sup>21</sup>The eye can't say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' The head can't say to the feet, 'I don't need you!' <sup>22</sup>In fact, it is just the opposite. The parts of the body that seem to be weaker are the ones we can't do without. <sup>23</sup>The parts that we think are less important we treat with special honor. The private parts aren't shown. But they are treated with special care. <sup>24</sup>The parts that can be shown don't need special care. But God has put together all the parts of the body. And he has given more honor to the parts that didn't have any. <sup>25</sup>In that way, the parts of the body will not take sides. All of them will take care of one another. <sup>26</sup>If one part suffers, every part suffers with it. If one part is honored, every part shares in its joy. <sup>27</sup>You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it."*





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As a part of the body of Christ, you have a unique and important role to play, and you are to encourage others to realize the same. So I want you to think about the Christians around you. How has God gifted them to reach the world around them and how can you encourage them to use their gifts for Christ? Then think about yourself. How can you begin to see yourself as gifted by God for His work? What gifts, talents and influence do you have? How can you use those for the Kingdom?



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## DAY 6 PLANTING SEEDS

Think about what it is like to be a school teacher. Every single day you pour into the lives of kids and very few of them ever appreciate it or say thank you. And you probably wonder if many of them will make it based on the way they act and work in your class. But many of them, thanks to your work, go on to lead incredibly successful lives and make a huge impact on the world. The only thing is, you may never know it. You just have to go home every day knowing you did your job. Now there is a lesson here, I am sure, about how you should work hard in class and be encouraging to your teachers. But there is also a lesson about being followers of Christ. We are called to plant seeds, and then the Holy Spirit works to make people come to the decision to give their lives to Christ. You may never know what happens to many of the people you minister to, but that doesn't matter. What matters is that you are faithfully obedient to share the Gospel and love the world around you, whether you receive praise or see the fruits of your labor or not. But don't be discouraged

Read Hebrews 6:10:

*“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.”*

God will not forget our work. He will bless us both in this life and in Heaven, and so we must be mindful to see those blessings, be encouraged, praise God, and then keep working.



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## DAY 7

### YOUR COMMUNITY...NOT THE WHOLE EARTH

I hope you change the world, but that can be an overwhelming proposition, and sometimes in pursuing that and thinking about the great poverty and sin all across our globe we forget about the hurt and spiritual emptiness at home.

Read Acts 1:8:

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

This is Jesus talking to His disciples and commissioning them to do His work. Notice how He called them to go to the ends of the earth, which they did. But first He called them to reach Jerusalem, their hometown. They did that too, by the thousands. We can't look to the world and neglect home.

I have written studies that students all over the world have read and have come to know Christ, but there are 20,000 lost kids in my community; that is over 96% of the 6<sup>th</sup> through 12th graders in my community. In my opinion, that is a failure on my end and on the part of the church. What about your community? What about your house? Does everyone in your home know Jesus? I hope you dream big. I hope you change the world. But don't neglect your “Jerusalem” in the process.



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## DAY 8

### DO YOU LOVE GOD OR.....?

Of course you love God. Why would you be taking the time to read this if you didn't?

Read John 14:15:

*"If you love me, keep my commands."*

Please know that I am not questioning your love of God. Instead, what I am wanting you to realize is that God's standards are not your standards, or even the church's standards, because if you are going to reach your generation you are going to have to raise the bar. You are going to have to realize that God wants every part of your life. You are going to have to realize that no opportunity to minister and no command in scripture is optional. You are going to have to truly love God.

This will not be easy and we will not be perfect at it, but I want you to begin to change the way you see your life and change the way you see your day-to-day interactions with others. I want you to start to see through the lens of truly selling out for Christ; in essence, truly loving God. You can't compartmentalize. You can't say, "I love God Sunday through Friday but Saturday nights are mine." You can't say, "I will go serve the poor, but sharing the Gospel is not for me," or vice versa. God wants all of you. The world needs all of you fully committed to God. So right now, begin to look at the areas where you are weak and have failed and start to pray for redemption and a new strength and direction.





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## DAY 9

### WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING?

Read Matthew 25:31-46:

<sup>32</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup>He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. <sup>34</sup>Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup>I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup>When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ <sup>40</sup>“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ <sup>41</sup>Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’ <sup>44</sup>They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ <sup>45</sup>He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ <sup>46</sup>Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

We are going to spend a few days on this powerful, but often difficult to read, passage. This passage is near the end of Jesus’s life and He is talking about some day when He comes back and we give an account for the lives we lived. Now, we will all give an account for our lives, whether Jesus comes back before we die or not, so this passage is very important for us to understand. I like it because as we keep talking about reaching your generation for Christ and specifically the community around you, this may



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lead you to wonder exactly what you are supposed to be doing. This passage gives a great framework for some areas you should be focusing on.

We will get to those areas in the coming days, but for now I want you to see one thing: The people who do the work Jesus commands us to do are the sheep and they get to spend eternity with God. The people who do not are the goats, and Jesus says He never knew them. Does this mean we have to earn our salvation? No. But this does mean that if we truly have come to know Christ our lives will be changed, we will be different, and we will be out doing God's work. It also means that none of this is optional. You can't say you truly know Jesus and not serve Him. You can't say you know Jesus and say, "But that part of ministry is not my calling." We are all supposed to be out loving the world around us in all areas. Are you taking the Christian life seriously, or are you just going through the motions? What areas of service do you already know need to become part of your life that are not currently?



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## DAY 10

### WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING (THE PHYSICAL)?

Read Matthew 25:31-46.

Regardless of where you live, people have real, physical needs. Sometimes these needs are short-term. For example, someone's home burns down and they need clothing and shelter until their family can get things back together. Sometimes these needs can be long-term, though. For instance, many people in your school only get to eat the free breakfast and lunch they are offered in the cafeteria. Think about what happens at dinner...on the weekends...on the holidays and in the summer. Obviously there are also greater needs in your community and extreme poverty all over the world as well, and I want you to care deeply about these things as God does; but in that process I don't want you to forget about the people who are right next to you and hurting as well. The bigger thing is that regardless of what the physical need is or how great it is, we are called to love people and help meet their needs, because in that they see Jesus, as we are in fact loving Jesus ourselves. We are not supposed to worry about why they are hurting or whose fault it is; we are just called to love. As we love them, we take opportunities to share Christ with them and disciple them, and then if there are any bad habits or poor decisions made, the Holy Spirit will begin to change them. But again, the Holy Spirit does the changing; our job is to be obedient and to love. It's like that moment right before Jesus feeds the 5,000 when the disciples come telling Him the people are hungry and maybe they should go home and Jesus says, "You feed them!" We need to be working to meet physical needs. This could mean that we have to sacrifice for others. This may mean we have to do some research and legwork to get people to the resources they need. It also might mean that we use our talents to help gather funds to meet people's needs. Whatever the case, we have no other option but to love the world around us and meet the physical needs of the least of these, even if they are just the least of these for a moment.



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## DAY 11

### WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING (THE SPIRITUAL)?

Read Matthew 25:31-46.

Did you know that just about everyone around you is in prison? I know that many of you know people who are literally in physical prison, but I am talking about a different prison because I want you to see that you are not exempt from any part of Christ's calling on our lives. The prison I am talking about is the prison of sin. People who do not know Christ—and unfortunately many people who do—are trapped in a prison of sin that they cannot get out of. We must pray for them, do life with them, and speak truth to them until they get out of that prison. I want you to begin to think about the people around you. What are some of the sins they are dealing with? How is that sin like a prison to them? Through looking at it this way, I hope you will stop looking at sin flippantly and instead see that it is destroying people's lives. Then I hope you will be blessed with a burden for your friends and work tirelessly to visit them and get them out of that prison of sin.





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## DAY 12

### WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING (THE EMOTIONAL)?

Read Matthew 25:31-46.

Christ wants all of our lives, and so serving Him means we must also love the whole person. This means meeting not only their physical and spiritual needs, but also their emotional needs. When you look at the things Christ is calling us to do, there is an underlying emotional pain that people will be feeling. When you are in sin, when you are physically in need, there are emotions that go along with that like loneliness, hopelessness, anger, etc. We must see that and show people love and show people Jesus so that they can find healing. Mother Teresa once said that the greatest poverty in the world is loneliness, and I tend to agree. We were designed to do life with one another; and while I have seen firsthand how much someone who is homeless appreciates a lunch and a coat, I am more amazed at how much greater they appreciate you taking the time to sit down and talk with them or give them a hug. So when you are reaching out to others, slow down a little and think about how they might be feeling in the midst of their struggles and hurt; then through that you can truly love them and help them find healing in Jesus.



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## DAY 13

### UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL

Read Matthew 25:31-46.

There is a lot of pain, brokenness and hurt in the world. We have seen that Jesus wants us to be His hands and feet to go out into the world and help people meet Him so they can find healing. This is the essence of the Gospel. God made things perfect. Sin messed things up. God sent Jesus so that everything could be made right again one life at a time.

This means that the answer to any pain, struggle and difficulty in the world is the Gospel. Don't believe me? Let's try this. We don't have time to go into full detail, but I believe we will summarize enough for you to see the picture.

1. Poverty - When we meet Jesus and are living fully committed to Him, we see things in the correct light. This means that we are not attached to our stuff or worried about our needs being met, so we are willing to give freely of our time and our treasure to meet the needs of others. Plus, as we share Christ with others and disciple them, they learn new disciplines and get a new heart and new eyes as well. The pattern continues until poverty is eradicated. Don't believe it can happen? Just read Acts 4:32-37
2. Abortion - No law or court case will stop people from having abortions, but the more we get out and meet needs and share Christ with others, the more people feel fulfilled instead of trying to seek out fulfillment in sexual relationships. Plus, the more needs we meet, the less people will feel a sense of panic and feel that they can't make ends meet. Most of all, with a new heart and new eyes, people can see clearly what God wants, especially if we are there to hurt with them. Trust me, some people's situations are messed up. I have heard direct stories of girls being gang raped by family members. I cannot imagine how difficult it would be to do life with young ladies like that and encourage them to keep the baby. But as we feel their hurt with them, as we go through their pain with them, as we cry out to God for comfort and clarity, hope can come out of even the darkest situations.
3. War - The United States has been involved in the war on terror for over a decade. Many bombs have been dropped. Many guns have been fired. Many lives have been lost and countless others destroyed. And guess what? There is still as much violence and terrorism today as when we started. Maybe by some



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statistical measure things are technically better, but God does not do “technically better”. God does transformation. God has promised us the abundant life here and in the hereafter. God sent His Son so that His Kingdom could begin being rebuilt now and for all eternity. The only way that happens is with Jesus. Imagine if Christians banded together to do life with others and share the Gospel instead of looking for the solutions that just make sense to us? What if instead we broke out of the worldly mold and molded ourselves to look like Jesus? It will be a long hard battle but Jesus and the Gospel are the only way we win.

I could keep going but I won't. I just want you to see that at the end of the day the Gospel is the answer. There may be some earthly mechanisms along with this; for example, if someone is sick, they may need the medicine created by the smart scientist God blessed us with. But in order for their lives to truly change they will also need Jesus.



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## DAY 14

### NOT LIKE EVERYONE ELSE

You may be starting to think this is all kind of weird and that you are going to look strange. You may be starting to have panic attacks about letting things go that seem like smart and wise security blankets or fallback plans. That's okay. You are going to be weird. You are going to be uncomfortable. You are going to not be like everyone else. Instead, you are going to be like Jesus. I want to look at an example from scripture where the nation of Israel wants to be like the world around them instead of trusting in God. I hope that through reading this you can see that even when something seems innocent enough or makes total practical sense, it should have no place in your life if it takes your eyes off of God.

Read 1 Samuel 8:

<sup>8</sup>"When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as Israel's leaders. <sup>2</sup>The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at Beersheba. <sup>3</sup>But his sons did not follow his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice. <sup>4</sup>So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. <sup>5</sup>They said to him, 'You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.' <sup>6</sup>But when they said, 'Give us a king to lead us,' this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. <sup>7</sup>And the Lord told him, 'Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. <sup>8</sup>As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. <sup>9</sup>Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights.' <sup>10</sup>Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking him for a king. <sup>11</sup>He said, 'This is what the king who will reign over you will claim as his rights: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots. <sup>12</sup>Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. <sup>13</sup>He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. <sup>14</sup>He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. <sup>15</sup>He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. <sup>16</sup>Your male and female servants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own





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use. <sup>17</sup>He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves.

<sup>18</sup>When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, but the Lord will not answer you in that day.' <sup>19</sup>But the people refused to listen to Samuel. 'No!' they said. 'We want a king over us.' <sup>20</sup>Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.' <sup>21</sup>When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before the Lord. <sup>22</sup>The Lord answered, 'Listen to them and give them a king.' Then Samuel said to the Israelites, 'Everyone go back to your own town.'"

Let me break down what is happening. At this point in Israel's history, they have had leadership but no king. Why? Because God was their king. God was their provision and sense of security and protection. So, as can happen, they began to look at their neighboring countries and feel like they were missing out on being like everyone else. They started to question whether God would and could really do all the things that He promised. This led them to ask for a king. That seems like a simple enough request, right? Doesn't a country need a king and an army? Surely God will understand this and agree to this simple request. But He does not. If you read closely, you see Him warning the people of all the terrible things that are going to happen to them if He gives them a king like everyone else. You see, because as much as a request may make sense to us and to the world around us, if it takes our eyes off of God it is sin. Even if there may be some level of "benefit", if it places our faith and reliance on anything other than God it is sin. And with sin comes consequences and missing out on the full blessing God has for us.

Does this mean we may look weird? Sure. But with that weirdness we get joy, hope, peace, true freedom, true safety and security and a life we never dreamed possible.

Now I will be honest, at times it is difficult to figure out what's okay and what's not. That's because this is part of us becoming disciples and being fully transformed in Christ; but in those times it's okay for us to question and wrestle, as long as we keep working until we find the truth.

What needs to change for you? Where have you settled for being like everyone else because it is more comfortable and more familiar? How would your life change if you transformed to being fully reliant on, and devoted to, God?



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## DAY 15 YOU WILL NOT FIT IN

This is a little redundant, I know, but it is one of the most difficult things for people to get their minds around, and I think it is important that we spend plenty of time on it. You see, we all have a desire to fit in, at almost any cost. Studies have actually been done on this. In one experiment, there was a circle of people and only one guy did not know what was going on. They all went around the room answering a math problem. The catch was, they all said the wrong answer. Guess what the last person—the guy who did not know what was going on—did... he said the wrong answer as well. Why? Because he wanted to fit in.

In another study, cases were found in which someone was getting mugged on the street and people in the apartments above didn't help. Why? Because since no one else was helping they felt okay about doing nothing as well. It all goes back to that desire to fit in and be like everyone else.

Read John 17:15-16:

<sup>15</sup>"My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They are not of the world, even as I am not of it."

We are on this earth for a reason, but it is not to fit in and truly be part of it. We are to be different. We are to be set apart. This means that we may not be popular, may not be liked, and definitely will not fit into the molds the world wants to put us in. As we follow Jesus we will look like nothing this world has ever seen and that will make others uncomfortable as they are forced to look at what is wrong with their lives. This will occur with both Christians and non-Christians.

The other thing is that Satan will not like this. He will fight to make us normal and to make us fit in. But we must resist and rely on the protection that Christ prayed we would have in these verses.

So I ask again...



# FIGHT

What needs to change for you? Where have you settled for being like everyone else because it is more comfortable and more familiar? How would your life be changed if you transformed to being fully reliant on and devoted to God?



# FIGHT

## DAY 16

### WHAT DOES EVERYTHING MEAN?

Read Matthew 16:24-26:

*<sup>24</sup>“Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul’?”*

When Jesus told the disciples that people who followed Him would have to take up their crosses, they did not get a picture of going out and getting some cool jewelry or a fun t-shirt. No, they got a picture of death—painful death and torture as a traitor. They knew that Jesus was saying they would literally have to give up everything to follow Him. This calling still is on our lives today; but what I love is that we get all analytical and try to decide, “Exactly what did Jesus mean by everything?” He meant EVERYTHING!!!!

If you are going to reach your generation for Christ, you will have to give up everything (time, talents, passions, goals, treasure, etc.) to align your life with what God wants it to look like. Now everything may look different for each of you, but you still have to give up everything that gets in the way of God using you for His purposes.

For example, many of you are in activities like band and football. God will ask some of you to give those up to fully devote to Him. Some of you, on the other hand, will be led to be more disciplined in those so that you can show leadership and be a light to others for Christ in that organization. Some of you may lose a spot on first string or lose first chair because instead of going to summer workouts/camps, God wants you to go on a mission trip. Regardless though, you can see that every step and every choice is about doing what God wants and about how what we’re doing can be done in such a way to make the maximum impact for Christ, instead of what we want or what makes the most sense. Besides, what else is worth living for?





# FIGHT

## DAY 17

### LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR

Read Mark 12:30-31:

*<sup>30</sup> "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. <sup>31</sup> The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."*

We discussed loving God in a previous day and all that it means; now I want you to see that Jesus ranks loving your neighbor right up there with this. You cannot do one without the other, just like the passage about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25. We have also dealt with loving your neighbor in that passage, but I want to add some clarification since, according to Jesus, this is one of the top two commandments.

We are called to love our neighbor as ourselves. Some of you may not love yourselves. That saddens me, but I get it. Sometimes life is hard and the people and messages around you are cruel. But in an ideal world you would see yourself the way God sees you each and every day. If you are not seeing yourself this way, I want you to stop and cry out to God for healing and new eyes. I want you to plead with God for the discipline to continue to see yourself this way more and more each and every day. Once you do, you will be able to see others in the correct light as well, because we should see others the way God sees them. This way we can see their true value and who God wants them to be. We can see their brokenness and hurt and how God wants to heal them. And we can see how God would want us to show them love and be moved to actually do it.

How do you need to see yourself differently? How do you need to see others differently? What are you waiting for?



# FIGHT

## DAY 18 LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Read Matthew 5:43-48:

*<sup>43</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup>But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup>that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup>If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? <sup>47</sup>And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? <sup>48</sup>Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”*

In case you thought you were off the hook as far as loving everyone, you are not. Again, we cannot get analytical and start trying to figure out who our neighbor is, because we have to love our enemies as well. Regardless of what someone has done to you, as long as they are alive on this earth they are still capable of coming to salvation. So we must see things in terms of whether they know Christ or not, and if they don't, how we can reach them for Christ. Plain and simple. Remember, the Gospel is the answer to the world's problems. Now, there may be some situations where it is not safe for you to physically go to someone and show them love—for example, someone who has abused you—but you can ask God to work in your heart so that you can find healing and forgive them and ask Him to work in their lives so they might be saved. What a powerful testimony, that out of extreme suffering you can find a way to forgive and pray for salvation for those who have wronged you. It will not be easy. Remember, Jesus compared the Christian life to taking up a cross, the most painful death imaginable, but it is necessary. This also means that obviously we as Christians must change the way we react to situations, big and small.

If someone hits your friend, don't tell them to hit the person back. If someone says something awful about you, do not find something worse to say. If someone drops a bomb on our nation, we do not scream from the mountaintops to bomb them back. Instead, we remember that many people do not know Christ. We need to pray that we may reach them, and that other Christians around the world would rise up to reach their neighbors and their enemies for Christ as well. Because as the scriptures say...



# FIGHT

Read Romans 12:17-21:

<sup>17</sup>"Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup>Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. <sup>20</sup>On the contrary: If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head. <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."



# FIGHT

DAY 19

DO NOT RUIN IT FOR EVERYONE ELSE

Read 1 Corinthians 10:32:

*“Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God—“*

Again, scripture is clear—do not lead anyone to stumble or fall away from God. This means that you should not sin and, in turn, lead another Christian into sin and derail them from the work God has called them to. But you also must work to avoid doing anything that might cause a lost person to move farther away from God.

Let me explain. I am willing to bet you know someone who is an atheist, meaning they do not believe in God. Did you know that they, more than likely, did not come to that point of view overnight? In fact, most atheists I meet have come to that point of view after spending time with Christians. It might be Christians they see on the news, it might be Christians they see on social media, it could be Christian friends, or quite often it comes from attending a church. Regardless though, they are often turned off to the Gospel by the very people who should be drawing them to it.

You see, our work is hard enough because Christianity has developed an image problem thanks to a lot of stupid Christians screwing things up for the rest of us. Quite honestly, it's for selfish reasons; for money, power, comfort, or just doing what feels normal or makes them fit in. Every day we are having to fight more and more to help people see who Jesus truly is and what it truly looks like to follow Him. So be careful of what you do, be careful of what you say, and definitely be careful of what you post. Also, be careful that you are not trying to align yourself with the things of this world because you think somehow we have to fit into the earthly categories around us. The work is hard enough without you making it even harder on yourself and on everyone else.





# FIGHT

## DAY 20

### SHOWING JESUS OVER RELIGION

I mentioned yesterday that many people become atheists after attending, or even being a member, of a church. Why? Because churches are manmade at some level and people tend to screw things up. This means that they don't get a true picture of Jesus. When you are trying to reach others, you don't need to worry about showing them church, although inviting them to church can be a great first step. You might not even need to throw around the words "Christianity" or "religion" because people are often waiting for that and ready to attack. Instead, keep showing them Jesus with your words and with your life—because Jesus is perfect. Jesus is the one who can bring them life change, and when they see Jesus there is no choice but to wrestle with the fact that they are sinners in need of a savior.

Read John 14:6:

*"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'"*

Remember, Jesus said He is the only way to God and eternal life. So keep pointing people toward Him and who He truly is, not who they think or have heard He is. If you do, you will avoid a lot of pointless arguments, and you will lead a lot of people toward life change.



# FIGHT

## DAY 21

### WHAT IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE JESUS?

Jesus will never leave you or forsake you, so don't worry; this is not an actual possibility. Think about how different your life would actually be if you did not have Jesus. Would you notice? Would others notice?

Read Philippians 3:8:

*"What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ."*

Paul's example was to show us that nothing in life compares to knowing Jesus. This should be our attitude as well. We should love Jesus so much that nothing else matters, and that anything else can be taken away and we would not care as long as we have Jesus. This is not always our attitude, though. Instead we often just stick Jesus in a compartment of our lives and have the attitude of, "I'll follow you, Jesus, as long as I don't have to let \_\_\_\_\_ go."

Read Philippians 4:13:

*"I can do all things through him who gives me strength."*

Paul reminds us that with Jesus we can do all things. This means that if we are truly serving Jesus, things will happen that we can't explain and that we definitely can't take credit for—but rarely do any of us actually tap into this power; instead, we choose to just check the boxes of the Christian life (read the Bible, go to church, do a mission project, etc.). But we have the power of the Holy Spirit in us. This is the same Holy Spirit that was in the disciples when thousands of people in one day got saved and poverty was eradicated in their community. We need to dream bigger. We need to do more. There should be moments in our lives when we know that we desperately need Jesus to keep the work going.



Is there evidence of Jesus in your life? How do you need to change your priorities and what you value in your life? What bigger things is Jesus calling you to? How different would your school/family/community look if you began to dream bigger and live in the power of Jesus?



# FIGHT

## DAY 22 DON'T DO IT ALONE

The greatest truth about the Christian life is that we don't have to do it alone—nor should we. Think about it: Jesus had His disciples. When He sent the disciples out to do ministry the first time, He sent them out in pairs. Paul had Barnabas, Luke, Timothy, and lots of others traveling with him. Peter and John went out and ministered and got arrested together. The early church immediately began to congregate together.

Why did they all do this? For one, Jesus told them to and he set the example. Also, following Jesus is hard. Satan is out to destroy us. People are going to reject you. So you need others to encourage you and lift you up. You need people to hold you accountable so you don't stumble. You need people to bounce ideas off of and dream with. You need people to just fellowship and have fun with.

Where do you find these people? First, at church. You need to be part of a local church and a small group of your peers in that church. This way you have a group doing all those things for you that I mentioned. You also need people at your school. That group may include people from your church, but I encourage you to include people from other churches as well, as long as they love Jesus and believe He is the only way to Heaven. This way you get a wide variety of ideas and personalities. This school group is important because school is where the day-to-day, minute-by-minute battle is going to take place.

Read Ephesians 4:12:

*“Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.  
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”*

See, I didn't make this up; it's in the Bible! You need multiple people doing life with you. Doing things by yourselves doesn't make you super spiritual, it's just being dumb. Find people to partner with and serve with so you can be encouraged and continue to follow Jesus for the long haul.





# FIGHT

## DAY 23 BE PERFECT

God's standard is simple. Be perfect.

Read Matthew 5:48:

*"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."*

This is a statement Jesus makes after listing out the beatitudes in Matthew 5. (Go read them; it's challenging and eye opening but definitely gives you a great picture of what the life of a follower of Jesus should look like). It was not a suggestion; it was a command.

Are we going to be perfect? No. That's why we need Jesus's death on the cross and resurrection so that we can receive grace; but we are to strive for it every day. There is always something to work on. You can always get better. You can always grow. You can always find a habit to start, end, or change. You can always sacrifice more or remove more sin, pride, selfishness, or whatever from your lives. So you need to always remain humble. You need to ask God daily to show you where you can grow and change. Every day we need to get closer to that perfection we are called to, starting today.



# FIGHT

## DAY 24 PLEASE JESUS

Read Galatians 1:10:

*“Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.”*

There were a lot of people whom Paul could have been trying to please. This included the many churches, from many different cultures, with many different opinions about life. But Paul’s focus remained on Jesus. You too will have a lot of people wanting to pull you in different directions. Some of these will be lost friends who want to bring you down. This is primarily so they can stop feeling the pressure in their souls to give their lives to Jesus.

There will also be Christians who will try to pull you away from Jesus as well. They will tell you that you are going overboard, need to relax and just be a teenager, or even question if you still believe the Bible since you are living for Jesus in such a way that wrecks their worldview and shines light on a part of scripture that they either don’t like or were not aware of.

But you will also face some temptation yourself. There will come a time when you want to do things that you know will get you praise, or attention, or make you popular. You must resist. You must commit to be a servant of Jesus and not people.

You need to begin to prepare now for these moments, because when the temptation comes it will be too late. You also need to take time right now to look at your life and immediately change those places where you are living for people and not for Jesus.



# FIGHT

## DAY 25 MAKING HARD CHOICES

Read Luke 9:57-62:

<sup>57</sup>"As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.'

<sup>58</sup>Jesus replied, 'Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.' <sup>59</sup>He said to another man, 'Follow me.' But he replied, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' <sup>60</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' <sup>61</sup>Still another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.' <sup>62</sup>Jesus replied, 'No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.'"

Jesus and the disciples are walking down the road and someone comes up and wants to follow Jesus. Great, right? But Jesus responds by warning that He will end up with nothing, just as Jesus had nothing. A second man just wants to go bury his father. Great, right? He loves his family. But Jesus says, "Come now or not at all." A little background will help this make a little more sense. In their culture, this statement would have meant, "Let me stick around and fulfill my family responsibilities for a few years until my father dies. Then I will come follow you." But even if the man's father literally was already dead, Jesus still made it clear that you must make the hard choice to follow Him over everything else.

You are faced with the same choice. You must choose today and every day to follow Jesus above everything else. For some of you, this means you will lose friends. Some of you will have to abruptly change goals, plans, or even jobs. Some of you will have to sell a bunch of stuff or quit a job and learn to want/need less stuff. Some of you will experience a fight between you and members of your family. This will be hard. This will hurt. But in every moment, in every choice, we must choose Jesus and trust that He will meet our needs, and that through our choices those around us will come to know Him and those torn relationships will be restored.



# FIGHT

DAY 26

## SCRIPTURE NOT CULTURE

Read Psalm 119:11:

*“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”*

You need to continue to read the Bible daily, long after this devotional is finished. You also need to memorize scripture. You need to make sure it is ingrained into your heart and mind. Why? So that, as this verse says, you can avoid sin.

Yes, a large part of this is so that you can avoid those moments of clear temptation; but there is another, maybe more important reason. You live in a world where lines between truth and lies and right and wrong have been blurred or even done away with. Even the church has taken some things that are just cultural practices and made them truth. For example, in East Texas, where I grew up, people see country music as okay because they like it, and rap and rock as not okay because they don't like it. Nowhere does scripture pick one over the other though, and if you listen to the themes in the lyrics, they pretty much the same. Instead of going to scripture, they rely on culture to define right and wrong. There are other examples, but regardless, you need to make sure your choices, actions, and worldview align to scripture and not what the culture of the day says is okay. I can't give specifics because each culture is different, but you really need to take time to think through your views on the world, sin, who our enemies are, what our calling is, etc. and decide in every area to figure out whether your views align with scripture or with culture. Then make the difficult and often unpopular choice to choose to follow scripture over what is culturally acceptable.





# FIGHT

## DAY 27 GETTING UP AGAIN

Read 2 Corinthians 11:23-28:

*<sup>23</sup>“Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. <sup>24</sup>Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. <sup>25</sup>Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, <sup>26</sup>I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. <sup>27</sup>I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. <sup>28</sup>Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.”*

I encourage you to read all of 2 Corinthians 11, but I want to focus on these verses now so you get an idea of some of the things Paul went through. What happened each time? First, he kept getting back up again. If he was in prison, he shared the Gospel with the prisoners and the guards. He kept writing. He kept traveling. He kept planting churches. No matter what happened, he got back up again and followed Jesus. The second thing, if you read the rest of the passage, is that Paul gave glory to God for everything. He never took credit for any strength or accomplishment. How could Paul do this? Because he was fully committed to Jesus, and he had other believers around him, as we have discussed. Plus, he knew the example Jesus set as He was arrested, beaten, and hung on a cross for us.

We are without excuse. Whatever we go through, whatever we lose, however much we might suffer, and whatever we have to sacrifice, we still must keep getting up and following Jesus. Don't whine when things get hard—rejoice! Don't stop working when things get difficult—work harder! Keep going. Keep telling people about Jesus. Your life will be better than anything this world can offer and your reward will be great in Heaven.



# FIGHT

## DAY 28 REAL COMMUNITY

I know just a few days ago we talked about not doing this alone, but I want to touch on this again. You need real community in your lives. I hit this again because you might be thinking, “I have friends. I have a small group.” I’m sure you do and I’m happy for you, but these friendships and groups may have to change in order to fully make the impact on the world around you that God is calling you to make.

Read Acts 2:42-47:

*<sup>42</sup>“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup>Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup>They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup>Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”*

This is a beautiful picture of the people of the early church and what their lives looked like once they came to Jesus. The community you do life with needs to follow much of this example. You need to fellowship together, and I mean really fellowship together. Turn the phones off. Play games. Eat meals together. Talk about life openly and honestly. Share your hurts and struggles. You also need to pray and study scripture together and grow spiritually. And I mean in depth, crying out to God to move, praying. Not just a little prayer before a meal. You need to sacrifice for one another, both time and possessions to meet everyone’s needs.

Why did the church do this? Why do you need to do this? Because the Christian life is hard and you are going to need each other if you are going to keep getting back up. Also, real, authentic community is contagious. People will want to be a part of it and will be drawn to Jesus by the way that you are all living your lives together.



# FIGHT

So maybe before you do anything else, find people to do life together with, plan specific times that you will get together, and plan specifically what your community will do and look like.



# FIGHT

## DAY 29 HUMILITY

Read Ephesians 2:8-10:

*<sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

It’s God who saves us. It’s God who does the work of saving others. It’s God who gives us the work to do and the skills, power, and vision to complete it. We don’t get credit, we don’t need credit, but we do want credit. All glory and credit goes to God. Notice how with every phrase Paul points things back to God. Even if people want to praise us, and they may, we point the praise back to God and give Him credit for what has been accomplished. In those moments where we want praise and are mad or hurt we are not getting it, we need to reject those thoughts as lies from Satan, humble ourselves at the feet of Jesus, and give praise to God for the work He has done in us and through us.

This may be the biggest fight you face on a daily basis because it goes against everything in our nature. But remember, life is not about you. It is about God and bringing Him glory and continuing to serve Him faithfully. Make that your heart and attitude in every trial and every blessing.





# FIGHT

## DAY 30 FORGIVENESS

Read Luke 18:21-35:

*"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?' <sup>22</sup>Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup>Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. <sup>25</sup>Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. <sup>26</sup>At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' <sup>27</sup>The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. <sup>28</sup>But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. <sup>29</sup>His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. <sup>32</sup>Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. <sup>33</sup>Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' <sup>34</sup>In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. <sup>35</sup>"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."*

What a picture of forgiveness. We have been forgiven so much by Jesus, our King; therefore we must turn around and forgive. We probably could have done 30 days on this passage alone, but for now there are just three things I want you to see as we wrap up.

1. You need to forgive yourself. Some of you have a past of sin that you are ashamed of and that makes you question if you can be used by God. Your past doesn't exist anymore. You've been given a new life and a clean slate. Don't let Satan fill you with lies and take away the opportunity you have to serve God and change the world. All of us will mess up from time to time in our pursuit of



# FIGHT

perfection. Remember that while we don't actively want to go out and sin, we do know that all our sins are forgiven. So regularly spend time confessing the sin in your life and asking for the strength to carry on and do better, but do not beat yourself up over it.

2. You need to forgive others. People may let you down or say hurtful things, intentionally or unintentionally. It's okay to hurt—that's normal and we still have emotions—but don't let that hurt turn into anger or bitterness. Make sure that you live in forgiveness. Remember, we have been forgiven of far greater by Jesus after we did far worse to Him, and the scripture clearly states that we can't be forgiven if we are not willing to forgive others.
3. Believe others can be forgiven, regardless of what they've done. Sometimes we get so far along the journey of following Jesus that we forget where we came from. In that process, we begin to decide that certain people are beyond salvation. But everyone who is still living has the opportunity to come to know Jesus, so you must work to help them find the forgiveness, fresh start, and new life that can only be found in Him.