

NAZARETH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

QUESTIONS Jesus Asked

QUESTIONS FROM THE ONE WHO KNOWS US BEST

A Question About Our Resources

5 Day Devotional {July 12, 2026}

In this devotional, we will sit with one of Jesus' searching questions: "How many loaves do you have?" As we follow the disciples from exhaustion to compassion, from pragmatism to faith, we'll learn how Jesus meets us in our limitations and invites us to participate in His provision.

Day 1

Mark 6:30-32

After returning from ministry, the disciples were depleted—emotionally, physically, and spiritually. Jesus did not scold their neediness; He recognized it and invited them to a quiet place to rest. This reminds us that Jesus cares about the whole person, not just our output.

Rest is not a reward for finishing everything; it is a rhythm of trust. When we accept Jesus' invitation to step away, we confess that the world does not depend on our constant availability. The quiet place becomes a re-centering space where we remember who we are before we remember what we do.

- Where are you currently running on empty, and how has that affected your spiritual awareness?
- What does a “quiet place” look like in your real schedule this week (time, location, boundaries)?
- What belief about God or yourself makes it hard to rest (fear, control, people-pleasing, guilt)?
- Choose one practical act of rest today that honors your limits and invites God to refresh you.
- In prayer, tell Jesus honestly what you are carrying, and ask Him to shepherd your pace.

Day 2

Mark 6:33-34

The disciples’ plan for solitude was interrupted by a crowd that arrived first. Jesus saw them and responded with compassion because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Instead of treating the interruption as an inconvenience, He treated it as an invitation to love.

Compassion is not pretending we have endless capacity; it is allowing God to align our hearts with His. Jesus’ compassion didn’t ignore the disciples’ fatigue, but it also didn’t dismiss the crowd’s need. When we learn Jesus’ heart, we begin to see people less as problems to manage and more as souls to shepherd toward truth.

- What “crowd” has been interrupting your plans lately, and how have you been reacting internally?
- Ask God to show you one person you’ve been viewing as an inconvenience rather than someone to love.
- What boundaries do you need so compassion doesn’t turn into burnout or resentment?
- How can you offer spiritual nourishment this week—encouragement, prayer, truth, or presence?
- Pray for Jesus’ eyes: name one situation and ask Him to replace frustration with compassion.

Day 3

Mark 6:35-37

As the day grew late, the disciples presented a practical solution: send the people away to find food. It was logical, efficient, and reasonable. Yet Jesus answered with a stunning challenge: “You give them something to eat.” He interrupted their common-sense plan with a faith-sized assignment.

Jesus’ command exposed how quickly our decisions can be ruled by scarcity thinking. The disciples focused on what they lacked—time, energy, money—while Jesus focused on what He

could do through surrendered obedience. Sometimes Jesus invites us to step beyond what feels manageable so we learn dependence, not self-sufficiency.

- Where are you defaulting to pragmatism instead of asking what Jesus might want to do?
- What assignment or need feels too big for you right now, and what emotions does it trigger (anxiety, cynicism, avoidance)?
- How might Jesus be stretching your “wineskin” mindset—your assumptions about what’s possible with God?
- Identify one small act of obedience you can take in the direction of the need rather than away from it.
- Pray: “Jesus, interrupt my plans where they are too small, and teach me to trust You beyond my limits.”

Day 4

Mark 6:38

When the disciples protested the cost, Jesus asked a different question: “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” He didn’t begin with what they didn’t have; He began with an inventory of what was already in their hands. The question moved them from panic to assessment, from imagined obstacles to present resources.

Jesus often starts miracles with honest accounting. He invites us to name what we have—time, skills, relationships, money, experience, compassion—and bring it into the light. The point is not that our resources are enough; it is that surrendered resources become something Jesus can multiply and direct.

- What resources do you currently have that you tend to overlook (abilities, connections, opportunities, time slots, finances)?
- What do you fear will happen if you offer what you have to Jesus (loss, inadequacy, exposure)?
- Make a simple “loaves inventory” today: list five things God has entrusted to you right now.
- Which one resource on your list could be intentionally used to nourish someone else this week?
- Pray: “Lord, show me what I already have, and give me courage to place it in Your hands.”

Day 5

Mark 6:41-42

Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, broke them, and gave them to the disciples to distribute. The multiplication flowed through Jesus’ hands, but it reached the crowd through the disciples’

obedience. Their role was not to manufacture provision but to receive from Jesus and faithfully pass it on.

This is the pattern for our lives: gratitude, surrender, and participation. When we offer our “loaves” with thanksgiving, Jesus can break what seems small and make it nourishing for many. The miracle may not always look dramatic, but God’s provision often arrives as we keep serving, keep sharing, and keep trusting the One who supplies what we cannot.

- Where do you need to practice gratitude before you see results, trusting Jesus with what feels insufficient?
- What would it look like for you to receive from Jesus daily before trying to give to others?
- Who is one person or group God is calling you to “distribute” to—practically or spiritually?
- What is one habit you can start to stay available to God’s multiplication (prayer, generosity, serving, Sabbath, community)?
- Pray: “Jesus, take what I have, bless it, and use me to pass Your provision to others.”

A Question About Our Desire for Freedom, Growth, and Responsibility

5 Day Devotional {June 28, 2026}

This five-day devotional explores Jesus’ question, “Do you want to get well?” and how it reaches beyond physical healing into desire, identity, and responsibility. As you reflect, invite God to strengthen your willingness to change and to step into a new chapter with faith. Each day will help you move from honest awareness to courageous obedience and ongoing growth.

Day 1

John 5:6-7

Jesus’ question to the man at Bethesda is direct and personal: it confronts not only the condition but the desire beneath it. After decades of weakness, the man’s life had likely become organized around survival, waiting, and managing disappointment. Jesus’ words press into the deeper issue the sermon highlighted: do you truly want your whole life to change, with all the new demands and unknowns that come with it?

The man answers with an explanation instead of a simple yes or no. His response sounds understandable, but it also reveals how easily we can hide behind circumstances, timing, and other people’s failures. Today is an invitation to let God lovingly expose where excuses have become shelter and where disappointment has dulled your “want-to” for freedom, growth, and responsibility.

- Where do you sense Jesus asking you a direct question about what you truly want to change?
- What “reasons” or explanations do you tend to offer when you feel pressure to grow?
- How has your current situation shaped your identity or daily habits in ways that feel hard to release?
- Pray honestly: if you’re afraid of change, name what you fear losing or facing.
- Write one sentence beginning with “Jesus, I want to be well in...” and complete it as specifically as possible.

Day 2

John 5:8-9

Jesus does not negotiate with the man’s smokescreen; He gives a command that creates a decision point. “Get up. Pick up your mat and walk.” The sermon emphasized that God is intentional—He is not random—and sometimes He overrules our hesitant desire by calling us forward anyway. The command is both a gift and a summons: healing is not only relief but a new direction.

The mat represents the old chapter: the place of waiting, the place of being carried, the place where life was defined by limitation. Picking it up means the man cannot simply remain where he was and keep the same story. In the same way, God’s grace often comes with movement—an obedient step that matches the new reality He is giving, even when our confidence is still catching up.

- What is one “mat” you might be clinging to—something that keeps you tied to an old identity or season?
- Where is God calling you to take a clear step of obedience instead of staying in explanations?
- If God gave you greater freedom, what new responsibilities would you need to embrace?
- What practical action can you take today that aligns with the life you’re praying for (one step, not a whole plan)?
- Ask God for courage to move: pray, “Lord, help me obey promptly, even while I’m still learning to walk.”

Day 3

Luke 12:48

Jesus teaches that “to whom much is given, much will be required.” The sermon connected this principle to healing and freedom: God’s gifts are not only comforts; they are callings. When God strengthens you, restores you, or opens a new door, He is also inviting you into greater stewardship, maturity, and service. Freedom is not just being released from something; it is being released for something.

This can feel costly because it changes how you see yourself and how others relate to you. The responsibilities of being “well” might include new disciplines, new boundaries, and new risks. Yet God’s expectations are never detached from His love—He supplies what He asks. Today is about reframing growth: not as pressure to perform, but as a grace-filled opportunity to live differently because God has been kind to you.

- Where have you experienced God giving you “much” (time, resources, insight, healing, support, opportunity)?
- How might God be asking you to steward that gift more intentionally?
- What responsibility have you been avoiding because it feels intimidating or inconvenient?
- Identify one area where you need a new practice or boundary to stay healthy in your freedom.
- Choose one concrete way to serve or encourage someone this week as a response to what God has given you.

Day 4

2 Corinthians 5:17

Following Jesus often means letting go of an old identity and receiving a new one. The sermon raised the question beneath the miracle: are you ready to surrender who you have been and step into who God is forming you to be? Even when the change is good, it can be disorienting because familiar labels—wounded, overlooked, stuck, dependent—have become a kind of predictability. Newness requires trust.

In Christ, you are not defined by your past, your limitations, or your longest season of struggle. A new identity brings new patterns: different thoughts, different relationships, and different ways of responding to difficulty. Today is about practicing agreement with what God says about you and resisting the temptation to return to an old story just because it feels safer than transformation.

- What old label or story about yourself do you most often replay when you feel stressed or uncertain?
- What does it look like for you to live as “new” in Christ in one specific area (habits, relationships, purpose, integrity)?
- Who are you becoming if you keep saying yes to Jesus’ invitations to grow?
- What relationship or environment might be keeping you tied to an old identity?
- Write a short declaration rooted in truth (not hype): “In Christ, I am...” and read it aloud today.

Day 5

Joshua 14:10-12

Caleb's request late in life—"Give me this hill country"—shows a faith that refuses to stop growing. The sermon pointed out that the story at Bethesda isn't only about physical healing; it's about willingness to keep changing, maturing, and taking risks until the end. Whether your chapter is beginning through something joyful or something painful, God can still call you forward with purpose.

A growing life is rarely a solo project. We are meant to encourage one another, bear burdens, and fan the flame in each other rather than criticize and shrink back. Today is about choosing a posture of ongoing growth—asking God for strength, seeking supportive community, and stepping into the responsibilities and risks that align with His call. The "giants" in front of you do not have to be the end of your story; they can be the place where God proves His faithfulness again.

- Where is God inviting you to take "hill country" ground—something challenging but worth it?
- What is one risk of obedience you've been delaying because it feels too big or too late?
- Who in your life helps you grow in faith, and how can you lean into that encouragement more intentionally?
- Who can you build up this week with a specific word, prayer, or practical help?
- Make a simple plan: name one growth goal for the next 30 days and one next step you will take within 24 hours.

Questions to Calm Our Worried Souls Part 2

5 Day Devotional {June 21, 2026}

This five-day devotional invites you to slow down and let Jesus' words reshape how you pray, how you interpret God's answers, and how you view God's heart toward you. As you reflect, you'll be led from honest asking to deeper trust, learning to rest in the Father who always gives good gifts—even when His answers differ from your requests.

Day 1

Matthew 7:7-8

Jesus' invitation to ask, seek, and knock is not a blank check for getting everything we want; it is a relationship invitation to bring our real needs to a real Father. Prayer is not a way to control God but a way to draw near to Him with dependence, humility, and expectation that He hears.

When worry rises, one of the most practical steps of faith is to turn anxious thoughts into specific requests.

As you pray, remember that persistence is not about wearing God down; it is about staying connected to Him while you wait. In seasons where you feel stuck—health concerns, relational tension, spiritual dryness—Jesus is calling you to keep coming, not because God is reluctant, but because He is good. The posture of asking forms your soul: it names what matters, admits you can't fix everything, and anchors you in the presence of God.

- What is one specific worry you can turn into a clear, honest request to God today?
- Where have you treated prayer like a last resort instead of a first response?
- How might God be inviting you to seek His presence, not just His solutions?
- What would persistence in prayer look like for you this week (a time, a place, a plan)?
- Who could you ask to pray with you so you don't carry your burden alone?

Day 2

Matthew 7:9-10

Jesus uses a father-and-child picture to clarify what “good” means: a good father does not respond to a good request with something harmful. Notice what Jesus does not promise. He doesn't say the father will always give the exact item requested; He highlights that the father will never give something evil in response to a child's need. That distinction protects you from the lie that unanswered prayer means God is cruel or absent.

When you ask God for relief and it doesn't come the way you hoped, it can feel like you received a “serpent” instead of a “fish.” But Jesus is teaching you to interpret God's heart before you interpret your circumstances. The Father may say “not that” or “not yet,” but He will not sabotage His children. Even delays and detours are never divine cruelty; they are shaped by wisdom you do not yet see and love you can trust.

- Where are you most tempted to assume God is giving you something harmful when you don't get what you asked for?
- What is the difference between “God didn't give me what I wanted” and “God gave me something evil”?
- How could this teaching change the way you talk to God when you feel disappointed?
- Name one past situation where you later saw that God was protecting you by not giving what you requested.
- What would it look like to bring your confusion to God without accusing Him of being unkind?

Day 3

Matthew 7:11

Jesus doesn't flatter His listeners; He calls them "evil" to make a sobering point about the human condition. Even with mixed motives and limited wisdom, earthly parents can still give good gifts. If that is true of imperfect people, then it is even more true of the perfectly good, all-knowing Father. Jesus is re-centering your worried soul on God's character: God is not guessing, God is not stingy, and God is not manipulating you.

This means your prayer life can be anchored in trust rather than fear. You can ask boldly because the Father is generous, and you can accept His answers because the Father is wise. The goal is not to decode every outcome but to know the Giver. When you believe God is truly good, you can breathe again—even in weakness—because your life is not at the mercy of chance but in the care of a Father.

- Where do you struggle more: believing God is good, believing God is wise, or believing God is generous?
- How has your view of your own "evil" or brokenness shaped the way you approach God?
- What is one way worry has been trying to redefine God's character in your mind?
- Write a short prayer that begins with "Father, I trust You because..." and fill in the rest honestly.
- What is one concrete step you can take today that reflects trust instead of control?

Day 4

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

Paul's "thorn in the flesh" shows that sincere, repeated prayer can coexist with a "no" or a "not yet." God did not shame Paul for asking; He met him with a promise: "My grace is sufficient for you." Sometimes God's good gift is not immediate removal of the problem but sustaining presence in the middle of it. This is not a lesser gift; it is a deeper one—God giving Himself to you when you are most aware of your need.

God's power being "made perfect in weakness" means your limitations become the stage where His strength is displayed. If you carry a thorn—physical, relational, emotional, or spiritual—God's refusal to remove it may not be punishment or neglect. It may be wise love, forming humility, deepening dependence, and teaching you that your security is not in feeling strong but in being held by a strong Savior.

- What "thorn" have you been asking God to remove, and how has the waiting affected your faith?
- How would your prayers change if you believed God's grace is sufficient even before circumstances change?
- In what ways could God be using weakness to reshape your priorities, character, or reliance on Him?
- What is one spiritual practice (Scripture, prayer, community, confession) that could help you receive God's strength this week?

- Who can you invite into your struggle so that weakness becomes a place of shared faith rather than isolation?

Day 5

Romans 8:15-16

Jesus' promise in Matthew 7 raises a crucial question: does this apply to you—Is God truly your Father? The Bible teaches that God is Creator of all, but He is Father to His children, and His children are those brought into His family through Christ. Romans describes the "Spirit of adoption," assuring believers that they belong, that they are not trying to earn a place at the table, and that they can cry out "Abba, Father" with confidence.

When you pray as an adopted child, you are not negotiating with a distant deity; you are coming home. This changes how you handle worry and disappointment because your relationship is secure even when answers are unclear. The Father's "good gifts" flow from steadfast love, not from your performance. Rest grows when you learn to measure God's care not by whether you got what you asked for today, but by the unchanging reality that in Christ you are His.

- When you pray, do you relate to God more like a child, an employee, a customer, or a stranger?
- What would it sound like for you to speak to God today as "Abba, Father" with honesty and trust?
- Is there any area where you feel you must earn God's attention or approval? Name it clearly.
- How does knowing you are adopted into God's family challenge the fear that you'll be abandoned in hard seasons?
- What is one step you can take to live today from identity (beloved child) rather than anxiety (self-protector)?

Questions to Calm Our Worried Souls

5 Day Devotional {June 14, 2026}

This devotional invites you to let Jesus' questions do their gentle but penetrating work in your heart. Over five days, you will move from identifying what is driving your worry to making a clear confession of who Jesus is, learning to trust His Fatherly care in everyday needs. Each day

builds toward a calmer soul by turning your attention from anxious speculation to faithful surrender.

Day 1

Matthew 6:25

Jesus begins calming worried souls by asking a question that exposes what anxiety often does to us: it makes life feel like it is held together by our ability to secure the basics. Worry narrows your vision until food, drink, and clothing feel like the whole story, and peace seems impossible until those needs are guaranteed. Jesus does not shame needs; He challenges the assumption that your needs are your master.

content continues: You were made for more than survival, and your Father's care is bigger than your fear. When Jesus asks about life and the body, He is inviting you to remember your true identity and His. If your life is a gift from God, then your daily provision is not a random accident but something He is able to oversee. Calm begins when you stop treating anxiety as a wise protector and start treating it as a loud but unreliable voice.

- What specific need has been feeling like the deciding factor for whether you can have peace right now?
- Where have you been acting as if your life depends mainly on your own control or performance?
- How would your week look different if you truly believed your life is a gift before it is a project?
- Name one way worry has narrowed your focus to "survival mode" rather than faithful living.
- Pray: "Father, help me trust that You care for my life and body today, not just my eternity."

Day 2

Matthew 6:26

Jesus points to the birds to confront a hidden belief beneath many anxious thoughts: that God might overlook you. Birds don't plant, harvest, or store up in barns, yet they eat because your heavenly Father feeds them. Jesus is not romanticizing irresponsibility; He is confronting the fear that you are alone in the world and must carry the full weight of provision by yourself.

When Jesus asks if you are not of more value than they, He is asking you to speak honestly about who you think God is. If you belong to the Father, then your worth is not measured by your productivity, your savings, or your ability to predict the future. A calmer soul grows when you let God's Fatherhood become more believable than your worst-case scenarios.

- In what area of life have you been operating as if God is distant or uninterested?

- What does “your heavenly Father feeds them” suggest about God’s attentiveness in ordinary moments?
- How have you been measuring your value lately, and how is that affecting your anxiety?
- What is one practical step of faithful responsibility you can take without sliding into self-reliance?
- Spend two minutes outside if possible and thank God for one visible sign of His daily provision.

Day 3

Matthew 6:27

Jesus asks a question that breaks the spell of anxious overthinking: who can add even a single hour to life by worrying? Anxiety promises control, but it cannot deliver it. It spends emotional energy without creating real power, and it often steals the very life it claims to protect—your attention, rest, and joy in God’s presence.

This question invites repentance, not from caring, but from believing worry is productive. Calm grows when you tell the truth: some outcomes are beyond you, and pretending otherwise only increases your burden. Jesus is guiding you toward a humble life where you do what you can in faith and release what you cannot into the hands of God.

- Where has worry been masquerading as “being responsible” for you?
- What has anxiety been costing you lately (sleep, relationships, prayer, focus, gratitude)?
- What is one outcome you cannot control that you have been trying to control anyway?
- How might your choices change if you believed worry has no power to extend your life or secure your future?
- Pray: “Jesus, teach me the difference between faithful action and anxious striving.”

Day 4

Matthew 6:30

Jesus points to the lilies to address another root of worry: the fear of not having enough or not being enough. The flowers do not labor or spin, yet God clothes them with a beauty that surpasses human achievement. Jesus is not condemning effort; He is exposing how quickly our hearts can turn provision into proof—proof that we are safe, valued, and secure.

When Jesus says, “O you of little faith,” He is calling faith back to the center where it belongs. Worry often reveals misplaced trust: we trust what we can see, save, and control more than we trust the Father who already knows our needs. The question is not whether you will have challenges, but whether you will interpret your life through fear or through God’s faithful care.

- Where do you feel pressure to “prove” your security through achievement, image, or accumulation?

- What is one example from your past that shows God provided for you in a way you did not expect?
- How would you define “little faith” in your own life without using shameful language?
- What would it look like to receive today’s provision as a gift rather than a badge of worth?
- Choose one worry and verbally entrust it to God, then take one small obedient step that aligns with trust.

Day 5

Matthew 6:33-34

Jesus brings His teaching to a focused invitation: seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. The path to a calmer soul is not found in obsessing over tomorrow but in reordering today around God’s reign and God’s ways. This is where Jesus’ questions become personal, like the moment the disciples had to answer, “Who do you say that I am?” Your level of worry is often connected to your working answer to that question.

When you confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, you are not just stating a doctrine—you are choosing a ruler and a refuge. Seeking first the kingdom means your schedule, spending, decisions, and relationships gradually revolve around trusting Jesus rather than managing fear. Then Jesus gives permission to live one day at a time: today has enough trouble, and God has enough grace for today.

- What does “seek first the kingdom” need to change in your priorities this week (time, money, attention, habits)?
- How would you answer Jesus personally: “Who do you say that I am?”
- What is one “tomorrow” you keep rehearsing, and what would it look like to bring it back into today?
- Identify one kingdom practice you will do today (prayer, generosity, reconciliation, serving, Scripture, rest).
- Pray: “King Jesus, I trust You with tomorrow. Help me obey You and rest in You today.”

A Question of Identity and Belief

5 Day Devotional {June 7, 2026}

5 Day Devotional

Jesus doesn't only ask what the crowds are saying; He presses closer and asks what you believe about His identity. This five-day journey will help you move from secondhand opinions to personal confession, and from confession to a life that aligns with who Jesus truly is. Each day invites honest reflection, deeper faith, and a renewed response to Christ in daily life.

Day 1

Mark 8:27-29

Jesus begins with a question that feels safe: what are people saying about Me? It exposes how easy it is to live on borrowed conclusions—absorbing the crowd's opinions, repeating cultural assumptions, or staying vague so we don't have to risk a real answer. Yet the presence of "chatter" around Jesus is not the main issue; the question is whether the noise has shaped your soul more than the truth has.

Then Jesus turns the question directly toward His disciples: who do you say that I am? This is not a trivia test; it's a moment of spiritual clarity. You can admire Jesus, be curious about Him, or even be near Him, and still avoid the personal claim He makes on your life. Today is an invitation to move from overhearing conversations about Jesus to answering Him honestly, because your response to His identity inevitably shapes your direction, your decisions, and your worship.

- What voices (friends, media, past church experiences) most influence how you think about Jesus right now?
- If Jesus asked you personally, "Who do you say that I am?" how would you answer in one sentence?
- Where are you tempted to keep your beliefs about Jesus vague to avoid discomfort or change?
- Set aside five quiet minutes today to speak directly to Jesus about what you truly believe and what you're unsure about.
- What is one next step you could take this week to seek Jesus Himself rather than opinions about Him?

Day 2

Matthew 16:15-17

Peter's confession—"You are the Christ"—is bold not because it is clever, but because it is revealed. Jesus says this recognition is not merely human deduction; it is a gift from the Father. That means spiritual growth is not only about collecting information, but about receiving illumination as you come to Jesus with humility and honesty.

This also means your faith can become personal rather than performative. You don't have to pretend certainty you don't have, but you are invited to ask God for clearer sight. As you bring your real questions into God's presence, He forms conviction in you—conviction that anchors you when the crowd's opinions shift and when following Jesus becomes costly.

- Where do you rely on your own reasoning alone, instead of asking God to reveal Jesus to you?
- What part of Jesus' identity feels hardest for you to trust or embrace right now?
- Pray specifically: "Father, show me who Jesus really is." What do you sense God highlighting?
- What would it look like for your faith to be more personal than performative this week?
- Who could you talk with (a mentor, pastor, trusted friend) about your honest questions and growing convictions?

Day 3

Romans 10:9-10

Confession is not mere religious talk; it is a turning point where belief becomes voiced allegiance. Romans ties salvation to believing in the heart and confessing with the mouth that Jesus is Lord—meaning He is not just inspiring, but authoritative. When you confess Jesus as Lord, you are no longer keeping Him as a spiritual accessory; you are naming Him as the rightful center of your life.

This kind of confession also confronts integrity. The sermon's probing questions about cheating, stealing, and honesty expose a reality: what we do reveals what we believe. If Jesus is truly Lord, then secret compromises are not "small issues"—they are places where our lives contradict our confession. Today invites you to let your words and your ways come into alignment under the lordship of Christ.

- How would your daily priorities change if you lived as though Jesus truly is Lord of every area?
- Where is there a gap between what you say you believe and what you practice (school, work, money, relationships)?
- Confess aloud in prayer: "Jesus, You are Lord." What resistance do you notice in your heart as you say it?
- What is one concrete act of integrity you will practice today to honor Jesus as Lord?
- Is there a confession you need to make to God—or to a person you've wronged—to bring your life into the light?

Day 4

Colossians 1:15-20

Colossians expands the question of identity beyond “Who is Jesus to me?” and anchors it in reality: Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the Creator and Sustainer of all things, and the Head of the church. If this is true, then Jesus is not simply a wise teacher among many; He is the One from whom everything comes and the One to whom everything belongs. Your life is not self-originated or self-sustained—you are held together by Him.

This vision of Christ reshapes what you are looking for in life. Career changes, relational pursuits, and personal achievements often carry hidden hopes: security, significance, control, or comfort. But when Jesus is seen as supreme, those desires are reordered. You begin to seek satisfaction in Him first, and then you can engage the rest of life without asking it to be your savior.

- What do you tend to look to for ultimate security or significance besides Jesus?
- How does it challenge you to consider that “all things were created through Him and for Him”?
- Where are you asking something in your life (success, approval, comfort) to do what only Christ can do?
- Spend time in worship today by naming three ways Jesus has been “holding your life together” even when you didn’t notice.
- What is one pursuit you need to place back under Jesus’ authority so it becomes a gift, not an idol?

Day 5

Colossians 1:21-23

This passage brings Christ’s identity into direct contact with your story: once you were alienated, but now you are reconciled through Jesus’ body and His death. Christianity is not a self-improvement project powered by willpower; it is reconciliation accomplished by a Savior. Communion, then, is not a performance for those who “have it together,” but a participation in the gift of Christ for those who need grace.

Paul also calls believers to continue in the faith—stable and steadfast, not shifting away from the hope of the gospel. Over time, the question “Who do you say Jesus is?” becomes “Will you keep trusting Him?” Today invites you to respond with enduring faith: to come into the light with honesty, receive Christ’s mercy, and keep walking with Him as your reconciler and hope.

- Where do you most feel the need for reconciliation—with God, within yourself, or with someone else?
- What would it look like for you to receive grace rather than trying to earn your way back to God?
- If you take communion in your church context, how could you approach it this next time with deeper honesty and faith?
- What is one “shifting” pressure (fear, temptation, disappointment) pulling you away from hope in Christ right now?

- Write a short prayer committing to continue in the faith this week, naming one specific way you will remain steadfast.

A Poignant Self-Assessment Question

5 Day Devotional {May 31, 2026}

Jesus' first recorded question in John's Gospel is disarmingly simple: "What are you looking for?" Over the next five days, you'll let that question search your motives, redirect your desires, and invite you into deeper companionship with Christ. Each day builds toward a clearer, more honest answer—and a richer life with Him.

Day 1

John 1:35-39

Jesus turns and asks two new followers, "What are you looking for?" He doesn't begin with a lecture or a demand; He begins with a question that invites honesty. Their response is not a polished statement of faith—only a desire to know where He is staying—yet Jesus welcomes it and draws them closer.

The invitation is tender and direct: "Come, and you will see." In other words, you don't have to have everything figured out before you follow; you only need enough openness to spend time with Him. The sermon highlighted how Jesus uses questions to awaken self-awareness, and this one exposes the real aim beneath your actions, habits, and pursuits.

Today, start where those first disciples started: not with impressive answers, but with presence. Let Jesus' question slow you down and move you from vague spiritual interest to a deliberate choice to be with Him. Often the deepest clarity comes not from trying harder, but from staying near longer.

- In plain words, how would you answer Jesus today: what are you looking for?
- Where are you most tempted to give a "spiritual" answer instead of an honest one?
- What does "come and see" look like for you in the next 24 hours (time, place, plan)?
- What pattern in your week suggests what you are really seeking (comfort, control, approval, distraction, peace)?
- Choose one way to "spend the day with Him" today: Scripture, silence, a walk in prayer, or worship—then note what you noticed.

Day 2

Psalm 139:23-24

God's questions are never for His information; they are for our transformation. When you invite the Lord to "search" you, you are asking Him to reveal what is driving you beneath the surface—desires you may not have named, fears you may have normalized, and motivations you may have excused.

The sermon emphasized that Jesus' question assumes we are seeking something. Psalm 139 gives language to that moment: it's a prayer for self-awareness with God, not self-condemnation without Him. The goal is not shame, but clarity—so that the "way everlasting" can replace the anxious ways we drift into.

Honest self-assessment is a gift because it interrupts autopilot. If you slow down long enough to let God expose what you're chasing, you can finally bring your desires into the light where they can be healed, reordered, and satisfied in Him.

- Where do you feel "anxious thoughts" most often—work, money, relationships, health, or reputation?
- What might your anxiety be trying to protect or control?
- Ask God to show you one "offensive way" (a harmful pattern) you've minimized—what comes to mind?
- What would it look like for God to "lead you" differently in that area this week?
- Write a one-sentence prayer inviting God's searching: "Lord, search me about ____ and lead me into ____."

Day 3

Matthew 6:31-33

Jesus connects our searching to our priorities: what you seek shapes what you worry about, plan for, and sacrifice for. When life becomes centered on "what shall we eat" or "what shall we wear," it isn't only about food or clothes—it's about security, status, and the fear of not having enough.

The sermon named common places Jesus' question confronts us: shopping, striving, complaining, performing, and escaping. Matthew 6 reorders the search: seek first God's kingdom and righteousness, and trust Him with what you cannot control. Jesus is not denying real needs; He is challenging the belief that meeting them on our own terms will finally make us whole.

Seeking the kingdom is not adding a religious task to an already full life; it's choosing a new center. When God's reign becomes your first pursuit, other desires begin to find their proper place—no longer your master, but a servant under the care of a Father who knows what you need.

- What have you been "seeking" that has quietly become your source of security?

- Where does worry reveal that you are trying to carry what God never asked you to carry?
- What is one practical way to “seek first the kingdom” today (generosity, reconciliation, prayer, integrity)?
- What complaint have you repeated lately—and what deeper desire is underneath it?
- Make a simple trade in prayer: name one thing you’re chasing and ask God to replace it with a kingdom desire.

Day 4

John 6:26-27

Jesus warns that it’s possible to pursue Him for the wrong reasons. In John 6, people follow because they want full stomachs and quick solutions, but Jesus calls them to desire something deeper than what perishes. His words are both confronting and compassionate: don’t build your life around what cannot last.

The sermon quoted the idea that our desires are often “too weak,” settling for lesser pleasures while infinite joy is offered. John 6 exposes the difference between using God to get what we want and receiving God as what we most need. Jesus does not scold hunger; He redirects it toward eternal nourishment.

Ask yourself not only whether you are following Jesus, but why. If your pursuit is mainly for outcomes—comfort, relief, success, approval—your faith will be fragile when those outcomes delay. But if your pursuit becomes Jesus Himself, you will find a steadiness that circumstances cannot steal.

- What “temporary bread” do you most often chase to feel okay (comfort, entertainment, validation, control)?
- When you pray, are you more focused on outcomes or on knowing Christ—how can you tell?
- Where has disappointment revealed that you were treating God like a means to an end?
- What would it look like to “work for” what endures this week (habits, relationships, obedience)?
- Name one desire you want Jesus to deepen rather than merely satisfy quickly.

Day 5

Philippians 3:7-10

Paul describes a decisive shift in what he seeks: what once looked like gain now looks like loss compared to knowing Christ. This is not religious achievement; it is a re-centered life. The more Paul sees Jesus’ worth, the more everything else finds its true size and place.

This is where Jesus' question is meant to lead you: from scattered wanting to focused longing. The sermon highlighted that Jesus keeps us seeking "more," not by stirring endless dissatisfaction, but by directing our hearts toward the only One who can truly satisfy—"infinite joy, infinite peace, the hope of eternity."

To know Christ is not merely to know facts about Him, but to share life with Him—trusting His grace, learning His ways, and even letting suffering refine your desires. When you answer Jesus' question with your whole life, you discover that what you were looking for was not a thing, a status, or a fix, but a Person.

- What do you count as "gain" that might be competing with knowing Christ more deeply?
- Where have you seen that achievement or control cannot deliver lasting peace?
- What is one concrete step to "know Him" more this week (Scripture plan, prayer rhythm, accountability, serving)?
- How might God be using a current hardship to reorder your desires rather than punish you?
- Write your own closing answer to Jesus' question: "Lord, I am looking for ____, and I choose to seek You by ____."