

Our Calling Is To Be Like Jesus

DAY:

Monday

TITLE:

You Were Made for This

KEY VERSE:

Romans 8:29 -- "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters."

REFLECTION:

I want you to sit with something this morning that I believe will change how you see your entire life. Before the earth was formed, before your parents ever met, God had you in mind. And the destiny he wrote over you was not a career title or a bank balance -- it was simply this: to be like Jesus. That is your purpose. That is mine too. When someone asks what your calling is, I want you to be able to say without hesitation, "My calling is to be like Jesus." It sounds simple, maybe even a little ordinary, but it is the most extraordinary thing you could ever pursue. When you understand that this is the goal, everything else in your life begins to line up around it. You stop chasing things that were never meant to carry you.

PRAYER:

Father, thank you for knowing me before I knew myself. Help me to embrace being like Jesus as the true purpose of my life, not just a Sunday idea but a daily reality. I say yes to that destiny today.

DAILY ACTION:

Write the words "My calling is to be like Jesus" somewhere you will see them throughout the day -- a mirror, a phone screen, a notepad -- and read them aloud each time you pass by.

DAY:

Tuesday

TITLE:

The Pull of His Love

KEY VERSE:

1 John 3:1 -- "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are."

REFLECTION:

I have stood in rooms around the world, across 63 mission trips in a single year, and I can tell you this from the bottom of my heart -- nothing draws a person toward Jesus like the love of the Father. When that love saturates you, you do not want anything else. You do not need anything else. It is complete. It is whole. The reason I am still in this after nearly 40 years of full-time ministry is not willpower or discipline alone -- it is because I have tasted that love and I cannot walk away from it. You are not just a church member or a good person trying to do better. You are a child of God. That is what you are. Let that truth settle into the deep places in you today. His love is the engine behind everything else we do.

PRAYER:

Father, let your love be real to me today, not just a verse I know but something I actually feel and carry. Thank you for calling me your child -- I do not take that lightly.

DAILY ACTION:

Take five quiet minutes today, away from noise and screens, and simply receive the love of God. No agenda, no requests -- just sit with the truth that you are his child and let it sink in.

DAY:

Wednesday

TITLE:

Guard the Gate

KEY VERSE:

Romans 8:6 -- "The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace."

REFLECTION:

I want to talk to you honestly today because I love you enough to tell you the truth. Where your mind goes, your life follows. I have seen it in my own life and I have watched it happen in the lives of people I deeply care about. The enemy is not subtle anymore -- he uses your phone, your screen, your scroll, to suggest things that set your mind in the wrong direction. One click becomes a habit. One habit becomes a stronghold. But here is the good news I also want you to hear: you have authority over that. Second Corinthians 10:4-5 tells us we can pull down strongholds and take every thought captive. The fire of the Word of God and the fire of the Holy Spirit are more powerful than any temptation the enemy can throw at you. Guard the gate of your mind today. It matters more than you know.

PRAYER:

Holy Spirit, help me to catch the thoughts that do not belong and to pull them down before they take root. Fill my mind with your Word and your presence so there is simply no room for what the enemy is offering.

DAILY ACTION:

Identify one media source, habit, or distraction that consistently pulls your mind away from God this week, and make a deliberate decision to limit or remove it today.

DAY:

Thursday

TITLE:

All In

KEY VERSE:

John 6:38 -- "For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me."

REFLECTION:

Jesus did not hold anything back. His entire life on this earth was oriented around one thing -- what does the

Father want? Not what is easiest, not what is most comfortable, but what does the Father want? I remember when God told me to walk away from a Fortune 500 company and step into full-time ministry. My salary dropped. My security felt shaky. But I had made a decision that my life was not my own. And I want to tell you, with 40 years of perspective behind me, it was the best decision I ever made. Not because it was easy -- the path with God is never the easy path -- but because it was his path. That uphill road stretches your faith and builds something real in your spirit. I want to ask you today, is there an area of your life where you are still holding something back from God? He is waiting, and he is worth it.

PRAYER:

Lord, I want to mean it when I say I surrender. Show me any area where I am still making my own plans first and help me to lay it down. I trust you with all of it.

DAILY ACTION:

Pray specifically over one area of your life where you have been making decisions without truly consulting God, and invite him into that space today with an open and willing heart.

DAY:

Friday

TITLE:

The Secret to a Victorious Life

KEY VERSE:

1 John 3:3 -- "All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure."

REFLECTION:

I want to leave you with this as you head into your weekend. The secret to a victorious life in Jesus Christ is a sanctified life. I know the word sanctified can feel distant and religious, but all it really means is this -- a life set apart, carefully lived, dedicated to God. The ancient Hebrew understanding of holiness was simply to live carefully. Carefully with what you see. Carefully with what you say. Carefully with the company you keep. That is not a life of joyless restriction -- it is actually the most free and powerful life you can live. When you walk in purity before God, your faith has authority. Your prayers have weight. You know he hears you. I am not talking about perfection -- I told my own staff just this week where I fell short and I went back and made it right. But the direction of your heart matters. Press toward him. Purify yourself. He is worth every single thing it costs you.

PRAYER:

Jesus, I want to be like you -- not just in the big moments but in the quiet everyday ones where nobody is watching. Purify my heart and help me to live carefully for your glory.

DAILY ACTION:

Before you go to sleep tonight, do an honest and gentle review of your day -- one thing you did well in your walk with God and one thing you want to do differently tomorrow, then bring both to him in prayer.