

Being Like Jesus - Pursue Moral Excellence

DAY:

Monday

TITLE:

Add to Your Faith

KEY VERSE:

2 Peter 1:5 -- "But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge."

REFLECTION:

I want you to hear something that changed the way I think about faith. Faith alone is not the finish line. Peter says to add to it. That word "add" in the Greek carries the picture of a wealthy man who pours everything he has into a production -- he cooperates fully, holding nothing back. That is exactly what God is calling us to do with our faith. He has already given us his divine nature, his precious promises, his grace. But he needs our cooperation. He needs us to show up, to pour in, to add. I have learned this the hard way. When I complained to God about my job not prospering, he told me plainly -- you are not doing your part. That stung. But it was true. God cannot fully bless what we refuse to steward. So today, let us stop giving ourselves a pass and start adding.

PRAYER:

Lord, forgive me for the times I have waited on you to do what you were waiting on me to do. Show me today where I need to cooperate with what you have already placed in my hands. I trust you, and I choose to add.

DAILY ACTION:

Identify one area of your life -- your work, your relationships, your prayer life -- where you have been waiting on God to move but have not yet done your part. Write it down and take one concrete step forward today.

DAY:

Tuesday

TITLE:

The Call to Moral Excellence

KEY VERSE:

2 Peter 1:3 -- "His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue."

REFLECTION:

I want you to understand something deeply personal this morning. You were not called to a mediocre life. You were called by God to glory and to virtue -- to moral excellence. That is not my idea, that is scripture. And here is the thing that humbles me every time I come back to it -- God has already given you everything you need to walk in that excellence. It is not something you have to manufacture out of your own strength. It flows from knowing Jesus, from walking with him, from letting his nature become your nature. But it requires that you take it seriously. Character matters. The values you live by matter. I have seen people with enormous faith sabotage everything because their character was weak. Faith and character must work

together. So today, I am asking you to take your character as seriously as you take your faith.

PRAYER:

Jesus, I want to reflect you in the way I live, not just in what I believe. Build my character from the inside out today. Let the way I treat people, the way I handle my responsibilities, and the words I speak show that I know you.

DAILY ACTION:

Choose one character quality -- honesty, responsibility, kindness -- and be intentional about living it out in every interaction you have today.

DAY:

Wednesday

TITLE:

Know Your Enemies

KEY VERSE:

1 Corinthians 15:33 -- "Do not be deceived: evil company corrupts good habits."

REFLECTION:

I have to be straight with you today because I love you too much to be quiet. We have three real enemies working against our moral excellence every single day -- the flesh, the devil, and the world. And the dangerous thing is that we often blame the wrong one, or we ignore all three entirely. Your flesh wants comfort over character. The devil is walking around looking for an opening. And the world is constantly offering you a lower standard and calling it freedom. Evil company corrupts good habits -- that is not my opinion, that is the Word of God. I have watched it happen. I have seen the young person with a genuine hunger for God slowly drift because the friendships they kept pulled them in the wrong direction. You cannot afford to be careless about who you do life with. The associations you keep are shaping you whether you realize it or not.

PRAYER:

Lord, give me the courage to be honest about the influences in my life that are pulling me away from you. Help me to draw boundaries with wisdom and love, and surround me with people who make me better.

DAILY ACTION:

Take an honest look at the top five people you spend the most time with. Ask yourself whether those relationships are drawing you closer to who God is calling you to be or pulling you further away.

DAY:

Thursday

TITLE:

Control Your Mouth

KEY VERSE:

Galatians 5:23 -- "Gentleness and self-control. Against such there is no law."

REFLECTION:

Self-control is in you. I want you to hear that. When your spirit was recreated in Christ, the fruit of the Spirit was placed inside you -- and self-control is part of it. But like a little crab apple on a young tree, it has to be fed and exercised before it grows into something substantial. And the place I see the lack of self-control cause the most damage, in marriages, in friendships, in ministry, is with the mouth. I have had to humble myself before my staff and say, I was over the edge, I was wrong, please forgive me. It cost me something to do that. But it cost more every time I did not. James tells us the tongue can set a whole forest on fire. I have watched a few careless words send a marriage into a days-long ice age. Self-control starts with choosing, before you open your mouth, to ask whether what you are about to say reflects Jesus.

PRAYER:

Lord, set a guard over my mouth today. Before I speak in frustration, in pride, or out of hurt, remind me to pause and ask whether my words will build up or tear down. I want my speech to sound like someone who knows you.

DAILY ACTION:

Before you respond in any conversation today where you feel frustrated or defensive, take three slow breaths and silently ask God whether what you are about to say needs to be said at all.

DAY:

Friday

TITLE:

Do Not Quit

KEY VERSE:

1 John 2:15 -- "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

REFLECTION:

I want to close this week by talking to you about perseverance, because moral excellence is not a moment, it is a lifestyle built one daily decision at a time. And the world is constantly offering you an easier road with a lower standard. Do not love the world. That is not just about music or movies -- it is about where you place your deepest affections and loyalty. The world will always promise you comfort and deliver corruption. Corruption means you lower the standard a little, then a little more, until you can no longer recognize where you started. I have watched people with a genuine call on their lives drift away not because of one dramatic fall, but because they stopped adding, stopped resisting, stopped persevering. You have an election on your life from heaven. God chose you. But you have to answer the call. So do not quit. Not this week, not this year, not ever.

PRAYER:

Father, thank you for not giving up on me. I choose today to keep adding, to keep pressing in, and to keep my eyes fixed on Jesus. Strengthen me to finish what you have started in my life.

DAILY ACTION:

Write down one area where you have been tempted to quit -- a spiritual discipline, a relationship, a calling -- and make one deliberate choice today to persevere in it.