

Empty Boxes Series

5-Day Devotional The Book of James

Day 1 From Skeptic to Servant

Scripture: James 1:1 and John 7:1-5

James begins his letter by calling himself a servant of Jesus, a remarkable confession considering he once doubted his own brother. Encountering the risen Christ transformed James from skeptic to surrendered follower, reminding us that Jesus changes not just beliefs, but identity.

- What stands out to you about James calling himself a servant rather than Jesus' brother?
- Where have you experienced doubt before surrender in your own faith journey?
- What might Jesus be inviting you to trust Him with more fully right now?

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for meeting me even in my doubt. Help me surrender my identity to You and live as Your servant. Amen.

Day 2 Faith That Costs Something

Scripture: Luke 9:23-26

Following Jesus is an invitation to a transformed life, not a comfortable one. Jesus makes it clear that discipleship requires daily surrender, reminding us that true life is found when we give ourselves fully to Him.

- What does denying yourself look like in your everyday life?
- Why do you think Jesus connects losing your life with saving it?
- What part of following Jesus feels hardest for you right now?

Prayer: Lord, give me the courage to follow You fully. Help me trust that Your way leads to real life. Amen.

Day 3 Joy in the Middle of Trials

Scripture: James 1:2-4

James challenges us to see trials differently, not as interruptions but as tools God uses to grow our faith. Joy does not come from the trial itself, but from trusting what God is producing through it.

- How do you usually respond when you face difficult circumstances?
- What does this passage say God is forming through trials?
- How might your perspective change if you viewed challenges as opportunities for growth?

Prayer: God, help me trust You in difficult seasons. Give me eyes to see how You are shaping me through every trial. Amen.

Day 4 Standing Under the Word

Scripture: John 8:31-32

James invites us to let Scripture shape our lives rather than forcing it to fit our preferences. True freedom is found not in selective obedience, but in allowing God's truth to challenge and change us..

- What does it mean to truly remain in Jesus' teaching?
- Where are you tempted to shape Scripture around your lifestyle instead of the other way around?
- How has God's truth brought freedom in your life before?

Prayer: Jesus, help me stand under Your Word with humility. Change me through Your truth and lead me into freedom. Amen.

Day 5 The Cost That Leads to Freedom

Scripture: Luke 14:25-28

Jesus never hides the cost of following Him, but He also never hides the reward. Though obedience may feel heavy at times, the freedom and life found in Christ are always worth the surrender.

- What cost of discipleship do you struggle with the most?
- Why is it important to count the cost before following Jesus?
- How does knowing the outcome help you remain faithful when following feels hard?

Prayer: Father, help me trust that following You is always worth it. Give me perseverance, humility, and joy as I walk in obedience. Amen.