

QFMC 5 Day Devotional

Week of February 15, 2026 by Andrew Royer

Preparing the Way

Day 1: The Voice in the Wilderness

Reading: Matthew 3:1-6; Isaiah 40:3-5

Devotional: John the Baptist chose an unlikely location—the wilderness—to deliver God's message. He wasn't polished or attractational, yet people traveled far to hear truth. God often does His preparatory work in stripped-down, quiet places where we can finally hear His voice. Today, consider where your "wilderness" might be—that uncomfortable, inconvenient place where God is calling you to listen. Sometimes the most profound encounters with God happen not in polished settings, but in raw, honest moments of solitude. Are you willing to step away from the noise and convenience to truly hear what God is saying? His voice may be calling you to prepare your heart for something new.

Day 2: The Meaning of Repentance

Reading: Matthew 3:7-10; Acts 3:19-20

Devotional: Repentance isn't about shame or beating yourself up—it's about changing direction. Imagine driving the wrong way and recognizing your mistake. You don't sit paralyzed with guilt; you turn around. That's repentance: realizing you're heading away from Jesus and turning the wheel of your life back toward Him. It's not punishment; it's preparation for presence. What direction are you traveling today? Are there habits, relationships, or thought patterns leading you away from life with Jesus? Repentance opens the door so grace can reach us. It's the end of pretending and the beginning of relief. God isn't asking for perfection—He's inviting honesty. Where might He be calling you to turn today?

Day 3: Honest Confession, Abundant Grace

Reading: 1 John 1:5-10; Psalm 32:1-5

Devotional: Confession is not humiliation—it's relief. It's the end of pretending and the beginning of grace reaching us. The Pharisees came to watch John, confident in their own righteousness, but repentance becomes hardest when we believe we're secure in our own certainty. True transformation requires humility, acknowledging we don't have it all figured out. When we

confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us. Confession doesn't earn grace; it receives grace that's already moving toward us. What are you carrying that you need to bring honestly before God? What masks are you wearing that keep you from experiencing His transforming presence? Remember: you don't come to Jesus because you're perfect; you come because He is.

Day 4: Fruit That Reveals Direction

Reading: Matthew 7:15-20; Galatians 5:16-25

Devotional: The fruit we produce reveals the direction our life is actually moving. John challenged religious leaders not to perform for God, but to let their lives show the condition of their hearts. Are you producing fruit of love, patience, gentleness, and self-control? Or is your life narrowly focused on your own perspectives, priorities, and desires? Fruit isn't about proving ourselves worthy—it's about revealing where our hearts are facing. God's Spirit produces fruit naturally when we're walking in the right direction, toward Jesus. Examine your life honestly today. What fruit are others seeing? What does it reveal about the direction you're traveling? Remember, God warns before He judges because His desire is restoration, not destruction. There is still time to turn.

Day 5: Preparing for His Presence

Reading: Matthew 3:11-17; John 1:29-34

Devotional: John baptized with water for preparation, but pointed to Jesus who baptizes with the Holy Spirit and fire. Fire doesn't only destroy—it refines and purifies, separating what is real from what is false. The same presence of God that removes what is false heals what is real. As you prepare your heart for Jesus, remember that He doesn't call you to fix yourself before coming to Him. He invites you to come honestly, just as you are, and let Him do the transforming work. Jesus stepped into the same water as sinners, though He needed no repentance. He meets us in our turning, not at the finish line of perfection. Today, pray simply: "Jesus, prepare the way in me." Trust that His grace meets you exactly where you are.