

21st CENTURY CHURCH

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Monday/Tuesday

PURPOSE OF THE DEVOTION: To give you every opportunity to let God speak to your heart about the church (that's you) in the most personal way.

WHAT TO DO: Read the 1st devotion in the early part of the week (Monday or Tuesday). Listen to the **21stCC Podcast on Wednesday**. Read the 2nd devotion in the later part of the week (Thursday, Friday, or Saturday).

Job had a lot of thoughts about God. From his perspective, even as a righteous man, he felt God owed him an explanation and was even potentially wrong in what He had done. God continued to rebuke Job for his arrogance, and then Job responded again in Job 42:2-6:

"I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore, I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me.' I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

There was something Job didn't understand until he encountered God. God is sacred. You don't play around with Him. He's not your buddy. He's not common. He's not someone to be taken lightly. Job never made that mistake again.

Our culture teaches us to push back on everything. We are so quick to question authority and to assume we are in the right. That attitude is oftentimes misplaced, even when directed toward imperfect human authorities. But it is completely inappropriate when we bring it into our relationship with God and His church.

WEEKLY KEY THOUGHT: WHEN WE TRULY UNDERSTAND HOW SACRED GOD IS, WE CAN'T HELP BUT BE IN AWE AT THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH. IT IS NOT COMMON!

Pray: God, help me to love the church, not just attend it.

21st CENTURY CHURCH

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE Thursday/Friday/Saturday

PURPOSE OF THE DEVOTION: To give you every opportunity to let God speak to your heart about the church (that's you) in the most personal way.

WHAT TO DO: Read the 1st devotion in the early part of the week (Monday or Tuesday). Listen to the **21stCC Podcast on Wednesday**. Read the 2nd devotion in the later part of the week (Thursday, Friday, or Saturday).

Society conditions us to be self-centered, but there is no room for this in the Church. We can't afford to compromise on this. We need to take our eyes off ourselves and have a new perspective.

Think about going to see a highly anticipated movie or the Super Bowl. Are you disappointed there are a lot of people there? No, you are probably actually excited to see so many people who enjoy the event as much as you do. There is a camaraderie with everyone there. You're not the focus of the event, but you still love it. This is a small taste of what church should be like—where we are part of a large crowd of people yet are so excited because we are all there to worship our King together. We lose self-focus yet gain so much more. The more we look at ourselves, the more we will get depressed. The more we look at Jesus, the more joy fills our hearts.

God Him- self designed the Church. He calls it His Bride. He made it intentionally, and it is beautiful to Him. We have a responsibility to be faithful to it, and many of us have strayed far from it. Out of reverence and love for God, we need to love His Church enough to dedicate ourselves to His Church.

WEEKLY KEY THOUGHT: *WHEN WE TRULY UNDERSTAND HOW SACRED GOD IS, WE CAN'T HELP BUT BE IN AWE AT THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH. IT IS NOT COMMON!*

Pray: God, help me to love the church, not just attend it.

WHAT DO YOU THINK GOD HAS BEEN SAYING TO YOU THIS WEEK ABOUT THE CHURCH?
