

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).

Are we giving God what He asked for? This is a really important question! In Luke 12 and Matthew 25, Jesus told parables to emphasize the importance of us being serious about God's commands. He clearly taught that there is a day coming when God will hold us accountable for whether or not we did as He told us. On that day it won't be enough to say, "Well, at least I gave You something, right?" He isn't just looking for just *something*. He is looking for obedience to what He asked for. What if you went to a restaurant and ordered a steak but what you got was a plate of spaghetti. You aren't thinking in that moment, Oh well, at least I got something.

The early church "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42) When you look at yourself, would you say you are devoted to the things the church started out to be? Is it possible you've become devoted to what you want rather than what God asked for?

WEEKLY KEY THOUGHT: ARE WE DOING WHAT WE WANT OR WHAT GOD COMMANDS?

Pray: Heavenly Father, I want to be devoted to what you want, not what I want. Help me to know the difference and have the courage to act on 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).

In Mark 7:1–13 the Pharisees were forcing people to wash their hands before they ate. But God never told people they needed to do this. It's obvious that washing your hands before you eat isn't a bad thing. It's actually a good idea. The problem was that it became a higher priority to people than being devoted to what God actually asked for.

Devoted is a really important word. Sometimes we may be guilty of being devoted to our favorite preachers or having a really good church service, great music we like to listen to, the best youth group, and a nice meeting place.

If something isn't commanded, it doesn't mean it's a bad thing; it just means it is optional and not to be put into the place of highest priority for you to be an active and devoted part of the church.

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