

WHAT IS JESUS EXPECTING?

A Five-Day Devotional

DAY ONE

PROCESS: Trust What God Is Developing

Scripture Reading

Philippians 1:6

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

Devotional

God is never careless with the process of your development. When Jesus approached the fig tree in Matthew 21, He was not demanding mature fruit that could not reasonably exist. He was looking for evidence that the process of fruitfulness had begun.

That distinction matters. God does not expect you to produce tomorrow’s fruit today. He does, however, expect you to cooperate with what He is developing in your present season.

A healthy tree does not become fruitful overnight. Before fruit becomes visible, roots deepen, nutrients are absorbed, life moves through the trunk, and the branches become strong enough to carry what is coming. Much of that work happens where no one can see it.

The same is true in your life. God may be developing patience beneath the surface. He may be strengthening your character, healing your heart, correcting your motives, deepening your prayer life, or teaching you to depend on Him. You may feel hidden, delayed, or overlooked, but hidden development is not wasted time.

God rarely reveals publicly what He has not first established privately.

Do not rush the process merely because you are eager for manifestation. Fruit produced before the branch is ready can become a burden rather than a blessing. Trust the One who began the work.

Reflection Questions

What might God be developing beneath the surface of my life?

Where have I become impatient with His timing?

Am I asking God for visible fruit while resisting the process required to sustain it?

Today's Application

Choose one area where you have been rushing God. Surrender your preferred timeline and ask Him to help you faithfully steward your present season.

Prayer

Father, thank You for being committed to the work You have begun in me. Forgive me for rushing seasons that You are using to develop my character and deepen my roots. Help me trust Your timing, cooperate with Your process, and remain faithful even when the work is hidden. Prepare me to sustain the fruit You desire to produce through my life. In Jesus' name, amen.

What Is God Saying to Me?

How Will I Respond?

DAY TWO

PRACTICE: Fill God's Pantry

Scripture Reading

Psalm 119:11

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

Devotional

Every spiritual practice is a deposit.

Every time you read Scripture, pray, worship, obey God, sit under sound teaching, or reflect on His faithfulness, something is being stored within you.

It may not always feel dramatic. You may finish reading your Bible and wonder whether you retained anything. You may pray and feel as though nothing changed. You may attend worship and leave without an emotional experience.

But do not confuse hidden work with wasted work.

In the natural world, a tree stores sugars in its roots and trunk so it can survive changing seasons. During times of abundance, it quietly prepares for times of scarcity.

Joseph understood this principle in Genesis 41. During seven years of abundance, he stored grain for the famine that was coming. The abundance was not only for present enjoyment; it was preparation for future necessity.

The same principle applies spiritually.

The Scripture you study today may become the truth the Holy Spirit brings to your remembrance during tomorrow's crisis. The discipline you build today may sustain you when your emotions are weak. The prayer life you cultivate today may become your shelter when life becomes uncertain.

You cannot withdraw from a pantry that has never been filled.

Faithful practices do not earn God's love. They position you to receive, remember, and respond to what He has already provided.

Fill the pantry while the sun is shining.

Reflection Questions

What am I consistently depositing into my spirit?

Have I been waiting for a crisis before pursuing God more deeply?

Which spiritual practice needs greater consistency in my life?

Today's Application

Set aside at least fifteen uninterrupted minutes today to read Scripture, pray, and write down one truth you want to remember.

Prayer

Father, teach me to value the quiet practices that strengthen my life with You. Help me hide Your Word in my heart, build a consistent prayer life, and steward seasons of abundance wisely. Fill me with truth that the Holy Spirit can bring back to my remembrance when I need it most. Make me faithful in the small practices that prepare me for greater fruitfulness. In Jesus' name, amen.

What Is God Saying to Me?

What Truth Am I Storing Today?

DAY THREE

PRETENSE: When Leaves Become Enough

Scripture Reading

Matthew 21:19

“And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only.”

Devotional

The fig tree looked fruitful from a distance. It had leaves. It appeared healthy. It gave every outward indication that something valuable was growing. But when Jesus came closer, He found nothing but leaves.

The leaves themselves were not the problem. Leaves were part of God’s design. They gathered sunlight, supported the tree, and contributed to the fruit-producing process. The tragedy was that the leaves had become enough.

Pretense occurs when appearance replaces reality. It is possible to know Christian language, attend church, serve in ministry, quote Scripture, and appear spiritually mature while neglecting the inner life from which genuine fruit grows. People often evaluate us from a distance. Jesus comes closer.

He examines our motives, our private obedience, our treatment of others, our willingness to forgive, our integrity when no one is watching, and the condition of our hearts.

This is not meant to produce fear or shame. It is an invitation to honesty.

Jesus does not expose empty places to humiliate us. He reveals them so that they can be healed, restored, and made fruitful. The answer to pretense is not trying harder to appear spiritual. The answer is allowing God to transform what is true beneath the surface. Leaves may impress people.

Fruit reveals that Christ is truly at work within us.

Reflection Questions

Are there areas where I am managing an appearance rather than pursuing transformation?

What do people see in me that may not reflect my private condition?

Which fruit of the Spirit does God desire to develop more fully in me?

Today's Application

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal one area where appearance has become more important than authenticity. Confess it honestly and take one practical step toward genuine change.

Prayer

Father, search me and know my heart. Reveal any place where I have settled for appearance without transformation. Forgive me for valuing what people see more than what You desire to produce within me. Remove every false covering and develop authentic fruit in my character. May my public life be an honest reflection of my private walk with You. In Jesus' name, amen.

What Is God Revealing?

What Must Change?

DAY FOUR

PRESENCE: Abide Before You Achieve

Scripture Reading

John 15:4–5

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.”

Devotional

Jesus never commanded a branch to struggle until it produced grapes.

He commanded the branch to remain connected.

Fruit is not manufactured by human effort. It is produced by life flowing from the vine into the branch.

This is the secret to spiritual fruitfulness.

MANIFESTING GOD PODCAST W/MARIE-ELIZABETH MONDAYS @ 7P

We often begin the day by asking, “What do I need to accomplish for God?” But Jesus invites us to begin with a different question:

“How will I remain connected to Christ today?” When we start with achievement, we often end in exhaustion. When we start with abiding, faithful action flows from relationship rather than pressure.

Abiding means remaining aware of Christ throughout the day. It means drawing strength from His Word, inviting Him into decisions, listening for His guidance, obeying His promptings, and returning to Him when distractions pull us away.

Abiding does not mean inactivity. A connected branch is alive, growing, and productive. But its activity is sustained by its source.

You were never designed to carry out God’s assignment using only your own strength. You were designed to live from His presence.

Before you serve, abide.

Before you speak, abide.

Before you lead, abide.

Before you make decisions, abide.

The fruit Jesus expects is the fruit only His life can produce through you.

Reflection Questions

Am I working for God without consistently living from God?

What normally disconnects my attention from Christ?

What would abiding look like in my daily routine?

Today’s Application

Pause three times today—morning, afternoon, and evening—and pray: “Jesus, help me remain aware of Your presence and responsive to Your voice.”

Prayer

Jesus, You are the Vine and I am the branch. Apart from You, I cannot produce the fruit that honors the Father. Forgive me for striving in my own strength. Teach me to abide in You throughout my day. Let Your love, wisdom, patience, peace, and power flow through me. May everything I do grow from relationship with You. Amen.

What Is God Saying to Me?

How Will I Practice Abiding?

DAY FIVE

FRUIT: Let God's Work Nourish Others

Scripture Reading

John 15:8

"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."

Devotional

A tree does not eat its own fruit.

The fruit it produces nourishes others, carries seeds, and makes future growth possible.

In the same way, everything God develops within you is intended to become a blessing through you.

God gives you peace so you can carry peace into anxious environments.

He gives you wisdom so you can guide others faithfully.

He heals your heart so you can extend compassion to someone else.

He teaches you grace so you can forgive.

He gives you testimony so another person can find hope.

Kingdom fruit is never merely personal.

It always reaches beyond the branch.

This gives us a different way to evaluate spiritual maturity. Instead of only asking how much Scripture we know, we should also ask whether our knowledge is helping someone else grow. Instead of measuring our lives only by what we have received, we can consider what others are receiving through us.

Who is stronger because you remained faithful?

Who has hope because you encouraged them?

Who has experienced grace because you forgave?

Who is learning about Christ because you are willing to share Him?

God's presence was never intended to stop with you. His presence is entrusted to you so that His character, love, and truth can be manifested through you.

Jesus is not simply looking for people who carry His name.

He is looking for people who carry His life.

Reflection Questions

Who is being nourished by the fruit God is producing in me?

Which spiritual fruit does my family, workplace, church, or community need from me?

Where is God asking me to move from self-preservation to self-giving love?

Today's Application

Intentionally share one form of Kingdom fruit today. Encourage someone, forgive someone, meet a need, share a Scripture, offer practical help, or tell someone what Christ has done for you.

Prayer

Father, thank You for every good thing You have planted and developed within me. Do not allow Your work to stop with me. Make my life fruitful for the benefit of others and for the glory of Your name. Let people experience the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control of Christ through me. May what You are doing within me become visible through me. In Jesus' name, amen.

What Is God Saying to Me?

Who Will I Nourish Today?

FIVE-DAY CLOSING REFLECTION

After completing this devotional, prayerfully consider:

What process is God asking me to trust?

What practice must I strengthen?

What pretense must I release?

How can I remain in His presence?

What fruit should become visible through my life?

My Commitment

With God's help, I will:

Inspiration → Revelation → Transformation → Manifestation

God awakens me to what is possible.

God reveals His truth.

God changes me from the inside out.

What God is doing within me becomes visible through me.
