

appnotes

DAY 1 READ MATTHEW 4:1-11

1

According to recent studies, the average American is bombarded by at least 300 ads a day. These ads tell us that if we buy their product, our lives will be easier, more fulfilling, full of adventure, or we will become more attractive! Who wouldn't want that? Everything looks very alluring! But the attractiveness of these choices and their strong appeal doesn't always mean they are the right choice. Do you need it? Can you afford it? Will it compromise your commitment to Christ? Hungry and tempted to display His power, Jesus chose to trust the father rather than give into the pressure. How? By turning immediately to God's Word to combat the lies of temptation. The next time you are tempted, tell yourself the truth and trust that God knows what is best.

DAY 2 READ 1 PETER 1:13-25

2

A house can look stellar on the outside while being sloppy on the inside. But when a guest comes, we hustle to clean up the mess by hiding it where they will never look. We can do that in our lives too. A sloppy life might have careless words, quick anger, bad attitudes, and wrong actions scattered everywhere. But when God comes to stay, the sinful mess must go. God wanted to fix things so much that He offered His best to make it so. By the sacrifice of Jesus, we are made clean. To keep our lives clean, we must take our sin right to Jesus. Clean lives are used for God's purposes. That's "holiness," a life set apart for a special purpose. Imagine that: your life—used by God!

DAY 3 READ JOSHUA 24:14-28

3

There's an old saying, "The way to hell is paved with good intentions." We can vow to do the right thing with all the best intentions, but without a focused, concerted effort to do it, our good intentions often fall short. Even the people of God can give in. Three times in today's reading, Joshua challenged the Israelites to serve God faithfully and throw away the gods of Egypt. Three times they promised, "We will serve the Lord." But within a generation their promises were empty. Sound familiar? Israel needed a Savior. We do too. Take your intentions to God today and ask for His help to keep taking your best next step.

DAY READ EPHESIANS 4:17-24

4

Isn't it funny how we accumulate junk every year that needs to be tossed? Or that when we get a raise, our lives expand to use it up? Or what about our tendency to procrastinate right up to a deadline—even when given plenty of time? The thing is, if we don't do something with the open space or additional cash or extra time, we just end up reverting to bad habits. Before you go spring cleaning, think about your soul. Paul teaches us that we need to remove sinful habits from our lives AND fill the vacancies with good habits. Toss out the trash! Then use the open space to install new habits in your life. If you don't, your life will fill up on its own with the same old stuff. What can you toss out today? What can you start doing instead?

DAY READ EPHESIANS 4:25-32

5

Did you know that a Christian who only avoids doing wrong isn't right? That's like freeing an impressive thoroughbred horse from a tangle of vines only to have it stand there. It was freed to run. The point of our freedom is that we would do something good with it. So let's get practical. Have you been lying to your spouse about the finances or where you have been? Stop and tell them the truth. Have you been angry at your neighbor for driving his RV across your front yard? Remove that anger and react in a way that will lead your neighbor to Christ. Are you the one who laughs at dirty jokes or has colorful language? Get rid of it and speak in a helpful, encouraging way to everyone. Have you passed on rumors about the boss or gossiped about a coworker? Stop it and show kindness, compassion, and forgiveness to others.

AppNotes are available on our Facebook page, Monday-Friday.

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