



5-Day Devo

for Individuals and Groups

based on

Advent | Week 1
Mercy, Justice, and Sacrifice

Dr. Michelle Anthony
December 1, 2024

Day 1: Embracing Mercy

Devotional The concept of mercy centers on the compassionate treatment of those who are in distress. Far from just a feeling, “being merciful” includes having an *active response* to the suffering we see all around us. And as we speak the kind word, extend the helping hand, offer the listening ear, we reflect God's love and compassion to a world in need.

Bible Verse “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” –Micah 6:8

Reflection Question Who in your life needs a little mercy today, and how can you actively show them compassion?

Point to Ponder Mercy is compassion in action.

Prayer “Lord, open my eyes to see the people around me who are hurting, who are suffering, who feel buried under the weight of this world. Fill my heart with your compassion, and help me to act with mercy. Let my actions reflect your love. Let me bring comfort to someone in need today. Amen.”

Day 2: Pursuing Justice

Devotional Justice is more than a legal term or a courtroom decision; it's a calling to make wrong things right. True justice reflects God's heart, requiring us to act even when inconvenient. It may mean standing up for the oppressed, advocating for the voiceless, or choosing integrity over comfort. When we pursue justice, we echo God's will, becoming vessels of his kingdom on earth. Each step toward justice brings light to darkness, pointing others to the ultimate source of righteousness—Jesus Christ.

Bible Verse "And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength." –Deuteronomy 6:5

Reflection Question Where have you overlooked justice recently because it was inconvenient, and how might you make it right?

Point to Ponder Justice isn't optional; it's how we reflect God's love.

Prayer "God, give me the courage to pursue justice, even when it's hard. Help me to see where I can make a difference and give me the strength to act. Let my actions reflect your righteousness and bring about your justice. Amen."

Day 3: The Power of Sacrifice

Devotional Sacrifice is the *ultimate* expression of love and always involves giving up something valuable for the sake of others, which mimics Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. When we sacrifice for others, we demonstrate the depth of our love and commitment. It's a powerful way to show God's love in action.

Bible Verse "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." – John 15:13

Reflection Question When did you last give up something meaningful so that someone else could be blessed?

Point to Ponder Without sacrifice, love is just a word, not a reflection of Christ.

Prayer "Lord, help me to understand the true meaning of sacrifice. Give me the strength to give up what I hold dear for the sake of others. Let my sacrifices be a reflection of your love and bring glory to your name. Amen."

Day 4: Sharing Our Gifts

Devotional The gifts of mercy, justice, and sacrifice are not only for our benefit but are meant to be shared with others. When we embrace these gifts, we can transform our lives and the lives of those around us in accordance with God's will for our lives. Sharing our gifts means being intentional about using what God has given us to bless others. It's about being a conduit of God's love and grace in the world.

Bible Verse "So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him." –Luke 15:20

Reflection Question How can you intentionally share one of the gifts God has given you with someone specific today?

Point to Ponder God's gifts aren't yours to keep—they're tools to transform others' lives.

Prayer "God, thank you for the gifts of mercy, justice, and sacrifice. Help me to share these gifts with others and be a reflection of your love. Let my actions bring transformation and hope to those around me. Amen."

Day 5: Aligning with God's Will

Devotional Mercy, justice, and sacrifice aren't just ideals—they're the heart of God's character and his call to us. When we embrace these values, we reflect Christ's love and align with his will. These actions transform not only our lives but also the world around us, as God works through us to reveal his kingdom. Living this way requires daily surrender, but the reward is *eternal*. Let's seek God's heart, be shaped by his spirit, and commit to bringing his love and grace to the world through intentional actions that reflect mercy, justice, and sacrificial love.

Bible Verse "You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water" —Psalm 63:1

Reflection Question In what ways can you align your actions with God's will by embracing mercy, justice, and sacrifice?

Point to Ponder God's heart beats for mercy, justice, sacrifice—does yours echo the same?

Prayer "Lord, I seek you with all my heart. Help me to embrace mercy, justice, and sacrifice in my daily life, and let my actions align with your will and bring glory to your name. Please fill me with your Spirit and guide me in your ways. Amen."