



## Daily Devotionals – May 25, 2025

### Day 1: Stones That Speak

#### Scripture:

“These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.” —Joshua 4:7b (NIV)

#### Reflection:

Sometimes God doesn’t just carry us through a hard place—He tells us to mark the ground we walked on. After leading the Israelites across the Jordan River, God didn’t rush them forward. He told them to stop and pick up stones—one for each tribe. Why? Because memory matters. Because faith fades fast. And because future generations need to know what God has done. You may be standing on the other side of something today—an illness, a loss, a battle you didn’t think you’d survive. And instead of racing ahead, maybe God is saying, “Pause. Remember. Pick up a stone.” Because what He brought you through isn’t just your past—it’s your testimony.

#### Story:

After her divorce, Dana didn’t want to talk about it—much less remember it. But when a friend at church opened up about her own crumbling marriage, Dana felt the nudge to speak. For the first time, she shared her story: the grief, the healing, and the quiet ways God held her together. “I never wanted to look back,” she said later. “But now I see—this is my stone. My reminder. And maybe it’ll help someone else remember they’re not alone.”

#### Prayer:

God, help me not to forget where You’ve brought me from.  
Teach me to mark the moments—those places of deliverance—so I can look back and remember Your power, and others can look forward and find hope. Amen.

## **Day 2: The Greatest Kind of Love**

### **Scripture:**

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” —John 15:13 (NIV)

### **Reflection:**

Jesus didn’t just talk about love—He defined it. He didn’t say love is convenience or comfort. He said love is sacrifice. Real love costs something. For Jesus, it cost everything. And for many who serve others—whether in the military, on the mission field, or in daily life—it still does. But this isn’t a call to heroic martyrdom for all. Sometimes laying down your life looks like setting aside your agenda, your pride, or your comfort to love someone in front of you. Real love is rarely loud—but it is always strong.

### **Story:**

Marcus was a nurse on the overnight shift. One night, an elderly patient kept ringing the call bell—not out of need, but fear. Marcus could’ve ignored it or passed it off to someone else, but he didn’t. He sat with her. Held her hand. Prayed with her. She passed away peacefully that night. Later, her daughter wrote, “You didn’t just care for her body. You gave her love that calmed her soul.” Marcus didn’t save a life that night. But he laid his down, in a quiet and holy way.

### **Prayer:**

Jesus, help me to love like You.

Not with just words, but with action—sacrificial, consistent, and real.

Show me today where I can lay something down so someone else can be lifted up. Amen.

## **Day 3: Finish Lines and Faithfulness**

### **Scripture:**

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” —2 Timothy 4:7 (NIV)

### **Reflection:**

Faithfulness doesn’t always feel flashy. It often looks like doing the next right thing—again and again—even when no one sees. Paul didn’t say he ran the fastest or did it perfectly. He said he finished. In a world obsessed with speed and success, God calls us to endurance. To stay in the race. To keep the faith. The reward isn’t found in applause—it’s in obedience, in finishing well.

### **Story:**

Sylvia had been teaching Sunday school for 42 years. No stage, no spotlight—just quiet faithfulness. One day, a grown man stopped her in the grocery store. “You were my teacher,” he said, choking up. “You taught me about Jesus when no one else did.” She had forgotten his name—but God hadn’t forgotten her faithfulness. Some finish lines don’t come with medals. They come with legacy.

### **Prayer:**

Lord, I may not always feel strong, but help me to stay faithful.  
When I'm tired, remind me of the finish line.  
Let my life be marked by endurance, not just enthusiasm. Amen.

### **Day 4: When Love Feels Risky**

#### **Scripture:**

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” —John 15:12 (NIV)

#### **Reflection:**

Jesus didn't suggest love—He commanded it. Not just when it's easy. Not just when we feel like it. He said, “as I have loved you.” That's a bold standard. It means loving people who may never return it. Loving when it costs. Loving through betrayal, disappointment, and fear. But that's how Jesus loved us—before we ever deserved it. If you're struggling to love someone today, you're not failing. You're being invited into the kind of love that transforms the world.

#### **Story:**

Angela and her sister hadn't spoken in years. Too much had been said. Too many wounds left open. Then their father passed away. Angela felt the Spirit nudge her—not to fix everything, but to take the first step. She called. They talked. It was messy, awkward, and hard. But it was a beginning. “I don't know where this will go,” she told a friend, “but I know Jesus wouldn't let me stay silent anymore.”

### **Prayer:**

Jesus, Your love wasn't cautious—it was courageous.  
Give me the courage to love others as You have loved me—  
even when it's hard, even when it hurts. Amen.

### **Day 5: Faith That Picks Up Stones**

#### **Scripture:**

“These stones are to be a memorial... so that when your children ask...” —Joshua 4:6 (NIV)

#### **Reflection:**

The stones weren't just for the people who crossed the river—they were for the ones who would come after. God's work in your life today might be someone else's story tomorrow. But only if you're willing to share it. What God brings you through isn't meant to be hidden or downplayed. It's meant to be remembered—and passed on. Your testimony might be the stone that gives someone else the courage to believe.

### **Story:**

Tom never talked about his time in the war. But when his granddaughter asked for a school project, he decided to share. As he described the fear, the faith, and the friends he lost, he began to cry—for the first time in years. “I thought forgetting helped,” he told his daughter later. “But maybe remembering is how healing begins.” His story became more than a report. It became a legacy.

### **Prayer:**

Lord, help me remember—and help me tell the story.  
Not to glorify the pain, but to magnify Your power.  
Let my life be a stone that points others back to You. Amen.

## **Day 6: The Long Fight**

### **Scripture:**

“I have fought the good fight...” —2 Timothy 4:7a (NIV)

### **Reflection:**

Some days don’t feel like races. They feel like fights. Not physical ones—but battles with discouragement, doubt, or fear. Paul didn’t pretend the journey was easy—he called it a fight. And yet he said it was a *good* one. Why? Because it was worth it. Every time you stand back up, every time you keep believing when it would be easier to quit—you are fighting the good fight. Not because you feel strong, but because God is strong in you.

### **Story:**

After months of chemo, Daniel’s body was worn out. But what stayed intact was his faith. One nurse asked, “How do you stay so hopeful?” He smiled weakly and said, “Because this fight doesn’t end in defeat—it ends in glory.” Daniel didn’t win in the world’s eyes. But he finished his race with a peace that preached louder than words.

### **Prayer:**

God, I’m tired sometimes. The fight feels long.  
But You never leave me alone in the battle.  
Strengthen me to keep going—not just for myself,  
but for the testimony of Your grace. Amen.

## **Day 7: Living Like Someone Who Remembers**

### **Scripture:**

“These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.” —Joshua 4:7 (NIV)

### **Reflection:**

God doesn’t just ask us to remember privately—He calls us to remember *visibly*. The stones weren’t buried. They were stacked where everyone could see. Your life can be a memorial too—not a monument to the past, but a living reminder of grace. How you forgive, how you serve, how you speak—those things tell a story. When others look at you, do they see evidence of what God has done?

### **Story:**

Lena wore a cross her late son gave her before he deployed. Every time someone asked, she didn’t just talk about him—she talked about Jesus. “This cross reminds me of two sacrifices,” she would say. “One gave me freedom in this country. The other gave me freedom for eternity.” Her faith wasn’t loud, but it was visible. Her whole life pointed to a Savior who redeems.

### **Prayer:**

Jesus, let my life be more than routine.

Let it be a story of grace, a living memorial to all You’ve done.

Help me live in such a way that when others see me, they remember You. Amen.