



**ICNU DEVOTIONALS**  
**PART 3: MOSES**

**DAY 1**

**SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 25:14-18**

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.”

**OBSERVATION**

The purpose of this parable is not to glean that God is frustrated with unimpressive people. In truth, Scripture is filled with God using seemingly unimpressive people to do absolutely incredible things. This week we will explore people who, though they had made massive mistakes, were still used by God. I’m talking about Paul, James, Moses, and Peter. God wants to take our little talent and exponentially multiply it, but we must be willing to step out in faith. We can’t live our lives dwelling on our past. As someone one said “It is impossible to drive a car forward if you are always looking at your rear view mirror.”

**APPLICATION**

Some people are too spontaneous and way too easily will step out in faith while others are extremely cautious and consistently find themselves suffering from “paralysis by analysis.” Wherever you find yourself in this spectrum it is critical to remember that God absolutely, without a shadow of a doubt, wants to use you in the building up of His Kingdom.

**Do you find yourself resting on past successes or crippled by past failures when it comes to using God’s gifting to be a leader? What keeps you from using your talents and gifts for kingdom of God today? What gift or talent has God given you to lead others?**

**PRAYER**

Meditate on a few of the lyrics to the hymn “Jesus Paid it All”

“I hear the Savior say,  
“Thy strength indeed is small;  
Child of weakness, watch and pray,  
Find in Me thine all in all.”

Jesus paid it all,  
All to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.

For nothing good have I  
Whereby Thy grace to claim,  
I'll wash my garments white  
In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.

And now complete in Him  
My robe His righteousness,  
Close sheltered 'neath His side,  
I am divinely blest.

Lord, now indeed I find  
Thy power and Thine alone,  
Can change the leper's spots  
And melt the heart of stone.

When from my dying bed  
My ransomed soul shall rise,  
"Jesus died my soul to save,"  
Shall rend the vaulted skies.

And when before the throne  
I stand in Him complete,  
I'll lay my trophies down  
All down at Jesus' feet."

Father, I recognize my overwhelming frailty. Lord help me not be crippled by all of my past failures. Prove to me that You can take my little talent, my little ability, my little life and do great things. Jesus, in all things help me know that though my strength is small I can find all I need in You.

## **DAY 2**

### **SCRIPTURE: EPHESIANS 4:1**

“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.”

### **OBSERVATION**

Paul understood the power and necessity of unity among Christ-followers for many reasons. One was that he knew how precious and sensitive the churches he planted were and division would cause great damage. The other reason is that prior to becoming a follower of Jesus, he had dedicated his life to destroying the church. In today's world we would have considered Paul a radical terrorist due to his hatred for Christianity and his zeal for destroying. Yet this same person who dedicated his life to destroying the church became the greatest church builder the world has ever seen.

### **APPLICATION**

If you think your past disqualifies you from serving God, look to the life of Paul and know God loves redemption stories. If you think you're better off just staying out of the way and letting others who are more qualified do the work, look to the life of Paul (and everyone else in the Bible for that matter!) and know that God is in the business of redeeming lives that once seemed completely broken and useless.

**What would be your dream way to serve God? What about your past makes you reluctant to step up and serve? How can you stop looking at yourself through a negative, broken lens, and start to see yourself how God sees you?**

### **PRAYER**

Jesus, help me to always be moving forward in my relationship with You. Help me to know that You have specific purpose for me to be on Your mission. Help me to live like the person I am in Christ, so that I can live a life worthy of the calling I have received.

## **DAY 3**

### **SCRIPTURE: JAMES 1:5**

“Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”

### **OBSERVATION**

It is comforting to know that even the brother of Jesus had to ask God for help. If we want to live a life that honors God, we have to gain wisdom. In Proverbs it says 1:7 “*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*” God wants to give us wisdom. All we have to do is ask for it. James knows that our development as Christ-followers is a life long process that gradually moves us toward complete maturity.

### **APPLICATION**

Even though James was the brother of Jesus, he did not immediately believe or follow Him. It took him time before he became a Christ-follower but God still used him in great ways in the early church. In your own life it doesn't matter if Jesus has always been your best friend or if you came to faith later in life, God wants to develop and mature you so that you can lead others and live the life God has called you to.

**What areas of your life is God working in right now? What areas have you grown the most in the past year? In what areas would you like to see more growth in the coming year? How can you be intentional to ask God to make you mature and complete?**

### **PRAYER**

Father, I know that I am a work in progress. Help me remember that You are moving me (sometimes very slowly) toward maturity and completeness. Show me the areas in my life that I am lacking and then fill me up with Your wisdom and Holy Spirit. Lord, teach me to ask You for wisdom so that I can be complete.

## **DAY 4**

### **SCRIPTURE: ACTS 7:20-22**

“At that time Moses was born, and he was no ordinary child. For three months he was cared for by his family. When he was placed outside, Pharaoh’s daughter took him and brought him up as her own son. Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.”

### **OBSERVATION**

Moses had an extremely unusual upbringing. Though he was born a slave, he was raised in the king’s household. In an attempt to reconnect with his people, he kills someone (an Egyptian beating a Hebrew) and flees in fear of retribution. Yet God calls Moses back to Egypt to confront the “hand that once fed him.” Moses was the most uniquely qualified person to free God’s people from enslavement but there were moments that seemed to disqualify him from being used by God.

### **APPLICATION**

**In what areas of your life do you feel the most inadequate?** It could be finances, relationships, communication, or hundreds of other things. God gifts us with abilities and resources but is always calling us to use our gifts in a capacity that we may feel outpaces what we have to offer. Moses had to believe and respond in faith that God was going to take care of him. God knows our true potential way before we ever do, and we must believe that He knows us better than we know ourselves.

**In what ways are you running from God right now in your life? Have you ever had a dream or vision from God that excited and terrified you at the same time? Has that dream been fulfilled? Or are you actively pursuing the dream? When it comes to living out the potential God wants for your life do you tend to doubt yourself or God more?**

### **PRAYER**

Father, I ask that if I am running from You in any way that You give me the faith and strength to stop and turn back towards You. Though my feet may fail, though my strength may fail, help me to fight through fear until I am living in faith. Lord, where You lead, give me faith to follow.

## **DAY 5**

### **SCRIPTURE: JOHN 1:40-42**

“Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter).”

### **OBSERVATION**

Jesus changes Peter’s name at their first meeting, but it would take Peter years before he would fully live up to his new name. Peter or *petros* in Greek meant rock. The name can imply several meanings, one being a rock is steady and stable and another is that a rock is hard and obstinate. Peter would take two steps forward and one step back. One moment he would proclaim that “Jesus is the Messiah” (Matthew 16:16) and then 5 verses later tell Jesus he wasn’t going to die and Jesus rebuked him by saying “Get behind me Satan.” Peter would also go on to deny and abandon Jesus moments before being tried and sentenced to crucifixion. Yet in spite of all of these transgressions, Jesus restored Peter and continued to use Peter as a powerful leader in the early church.

### **APPLICATION**

Many of us identify closely with Peter, the shortcomings at least. We completely understand the spark of faith that led him to step out of the boat and then the crushing doubt that caused him to sink. What’s so powerful is that it is people like Peter that God uses to do incredible things in His name. Jesus spoke a new name and future over Peter when they first met, and though over the span of three years he would swing wildly from brilliance in one moment to blasphemy the next, he was still considered worthy to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Are there parts of your personality you feel might actually get in the way of God working in and through your life? In what ways do you resonate with Peter and his two steps forward one step back faith journey? Have you learned that even though we may mess up God wants to restore us and return us to His Path?**

### **PRAYER**

Father, help me live out the identity You have given me. Help me to not dwell on my past mistakes. Give me strength to live up to the potential You see in me today and not get hung up on how much I failed yesterday. Lord, I want to be used by You. Help me to become the person I was designed to be.