

# This Week's Devotional (Mon–Fri)

*McLean Bible Church | May 17, 2026*

<b>Sermon Title</b>	Religion God Rejects
<b>Series</b>	Kingmaker
<b>Speaker</b>	Pastor Mike Kelsey
<b>Primary Passage</b>	1 Samuel 4:2-7:2

## DAY

1

Awakened

Pastor Reminder: The people in 1 Samuel wanted the presence of God without the holiness of God. We can do the same when we treat the Lord like a comfort or tool rather than the King who speaks and rules. Holy reverence begins when we let God be God.

1 Samuel 4:3, God's people sought the ark, but their hearts had not truly returned to him.

🤔 Where have I wanted God's help without yielding my heart to his rule?

🙏 Lord, wake me from shallow faith. Teach me to honor you as holy and to trust you as Lord.

✅ Try this today: Pause before one decision and pray, "Lord, what would honor you here?"

## DAY

### 2

#### Source

Pastor Reminder: The ark was never meant to be a charm; it pointed to the living God among his people. When we try to manage God, we lose sight of his true glory and goodness. He gives grace, but he will not be placed in our control.

Exodus 25, God instructed his people to receive his presence with reverence and obedience.

☁️ Am I relating to God as he has revealed himself, or as I prefer to imagine him?

🙏 Father, keep me from reshaping you into my own liking. Help me receive your presence with humility and trust.

✅ Try this today: Read a short passage of Scripture before checking your phone this morning.

## DAY

### 3

#### Essence

Pastor Reminder: In 1 Samuel 5, the false hope of a manageable religion is exposed. The Lord shows that he has no rivals and cannot be used or placed beside other loyalties. His holiness is a warning to every divided heart.

1 Samuel 5:6-12, the Lord showed his power over what people trusted besides him.

☁️ What rival has quietly shared my trust with God?

🙏 Lord, expose every divided loyalty in me. Draw my heart back to simple, sincere worship of you alone.

✅ Try this today: Name one competing trust and confess it plainly in prayer.

## DAY

4

Christ

Pastor Reminder: The holy God does not merely confront our sin; he also makes a way for us to return. In Christ, grace is not permission to stay unchanged, but mercy that leads us into true worship. Jesus receives what our self-made religion cannot offer.

1 Samuel 7:1, the Lord's people were called to turn back and prepare their hearts.

☁️ Am I allowing Jesus to reshape one part of my life that I have kept untouched?

🙏 Lord Jesus, thank you for bringing grace to undeserving people. Lead me into deeper reverence, repentance, and joy in you.

✅ Try this today: Set aside ten minutes to confess one sin and ask for a new obedience in that area.

## DAY

5

Worship

Pastor Reminder: By the end of the story, fear gives way to humble worship and renewed trust. God is not an add-on to life; he is the holy Lord who meets his people with mercy. When we receive him rightly, our hearts learn peace and praise.

1 Samuel 6:19-21, the Lord's people were sobered and drawn to treat him with reverence.

☁️ What one area of my life still needs to come under the gentle lordship of Christ?

🙏 Father, make my worship sincere and my obedience whole. Let my life gladly belong to you alone.

✔ Try this today: Share one specific area of repentance with a trusted believer and ask them to pray with you.

May the Lord deepen your reverence and fill you with joyful worship this week.