

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotionals: The Cost and Call of Discipleship

AM Message by Bro. Craig Deputy – September 13, 2026

Day 1: Are You Truly Following?

Reading: Matthew 16:24-26 — Jesus calls his followers to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow him, warning that gaining the world at the cost of one's soul is no gain at all.

Devotional: It is easy to attend church, sing the songs, and take the Lord's Supper without ever truly committing to the life of a disciple. But Jesus does not call us to comfortable attendance. He calls us to complete surrender. Ask yourself honestly this morning: are you following Jesus because you want to, or because habit and expectation have carried you this far? True discipleship begins the moment convenience stops being your motivation. Deny yourself something today that competes with your devotion to Christ, and replace it with intentional prayer or Scripture.

Day 2: Transformed, Not Conformed

Reading: Romans 12:1-2 — Paul urges believers to offer themselves as living sacrifices and to be transformed by the renewing of their minds rather than shaped by the patterns of the world around them.

Devotional: The world is constantly pressing in, shaping opinions, redefining truth, and making compromise feel reasonable. The pressure to stay silent about your faith, to go along with what culture demands, is real and relentless. But Paul's call is radical: do not let the world set the mold. Let God reshape your thinking from the inside out. Spiritual transformation is not a single moment but a daily renewal. What are you allowing to shape your mind this week? Evaluate your media, your conversations, and your habits. Ask God to renew your thinking and align it with his perfect will.

Day 3: The Fruit That Others Can See

Reading: Galatians 5:22-23 — Paul describes the fruit of the Spirit as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, qualities that mark a life surrendered to God.

Devotional: Discipleship is not invisible. It shows up in how you treat the person who frustrates you, how you respond when life is unfair, and whether you extend kindness when no one is

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watching. The fruit of the Spirit is not a list of rules to perform but the natural overflow of a life connected to God. Just as a branch cannot produce fruit apart from the vine, you cannot manufacture these qualities through effort alone. Stay connected to Christ through prayer and his Word. Then watch how the fruit begins to appear in ways that draw others toward him.

Day 4: Multiplication, Not Maintenance

Reading: Matthew 28:18-20 — Jesus commissions his followers to go into all the world, making disciples of all nations, baptizing them, and teaching them to obey everything he commanded.

Devotional: The Great Commission was never meant to be a historical footnote. It is a living assignment for every believer in every generation. Yet the church has drifted into a maintenance posture, preserving what exists rather than multiplying what God intended. Entire generations are walking away because no one is walking toward them with the gospel. Discipleship that does not reproduce is incomplete. Think of one person in your life who needs to hear about Jesus. Pray for them by name this week. Then take one intentional step toward a conversation. The mission does not end at the church door.

Day 5: The Crown Waiting for the Faithful

Reading: Revelation 2:10 — The risen Christ encourages believers facing persecution to remain faithful even unto death, promising that those who endure will receive the crown of life.

Devotional: Life brings loss, grief, divorce, loneliness, and seasons that feel like they may break you entirely. But faithfulness is not measured by the absence of suffering. It is measured by what you choose when suffering arrives. The promise of the crown of life is not given to those who had easy journeys. It is given to those who refused to quit. Whatever you are carrying today, God sees it. He is not indifferent to your pain. Let the weight of eternity give you perspective on the weight of today. Stay faithful. The road is hard, but the destination is worth every step.