

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on Mark 13 and the Themes of the Olivet Discourse

Day 1: The Word That Will Not Fall

Reading: Mark 13:31; Isaiah 40:6-8; Psalm 119:89-90

Devotional: Empires rise and crumble. Institutions that once seemed unshakable are reduced to rubble. The temple in Jerusalem, the most sacred structure in the ancient world, fell stone by stone in 70 AD, just as Jesus said it would. Yet his words remained. They always remain. Whatever is shaking in your life right now -- your health, your finances, your relationships, your sense of stability -- is not the final word. The final word belongs to Christ alone. Build your life on what cannot be moved. His promises are not subject to revision, expiration, or defeat.

Reflection: What are you leaning on for security that is temporary? How might you reorient your trust toward the unchanging word of God?

Day 2: Watching Without Fear

Reading: Mark 13:24-27; Daniel 7:13-14; Revelation 1:7

Devotional: Jesus describes his return using the language of cosmic upheaval -- the sun darkened, the stars falling, the powers shaken. This is not meant to terrify the believer. It is meant to awaken the believer. The same Son of Man who wept at Lazarus's tomb, who touched the leper no one would touch, who bore a crown of thorns, is the one who will return in great power and great glory. The one you know in the quiet of your prayer life is the king of the universe. His return is not a threat to those who belong to him. It is their rescue.

Reflection: How does knowing the character of the returning king change the way you think about the end of all things?

Day 3: The Patience of God Is Salvation

Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14; Romans 5:3-5; Lamentations 3:22-26

Devotional: Every day the Lord delays his return is a deliberate act of mercy. Peter makes this unmistakably clear -- God is not slow, he is patient. He is patient toward people who have not yet come to repentance. He is patient toward his church, which suffering is still forming into the image of his Son. When life feels prolonged and painful, when you wonder why God does not simply end it all and make things right, remember that his timing is shaped by love, not indifference.

The waiting is not wasted. Suffering produces endurance. Endurance produces character. Character produces hope. And that hope will not disappoint.

Reflection: Is there an area of your life where you have mistaken God's patience for absence? What would it look like to receive his timing as a gift?

Day 4: The Temple Torn and the Door Opened

Reading: Mark 15:37-38; Hebrews 10:19-22; Jeremiah 31:31-34

Devotional: When Jesus died on the cross, the temple veil tore from top to bottom. This was not an accident and it was not a tragedy. It was an announcement. The old order, with its curtains and its distance and its barriers between sinful humanity and a holy God, was finished. What the temple could only point toward, Christ accomplished completely. You are no longer required to approach God from a distance. You are invited to draw near with full assurance. The destruction of the Jerusalem temple in 70 AD was the public confirmation of what the torn veil declared: a new and living way had been opened through the blood of Jesus.

Reflection: Do you approach God with the confidence that the torn veil makes available to you, or do you still live as though there is a barrier between you and him?

Day 5: Be Found Ready

Reading: 2 Peter 3:14; Matthew 25:1-13; Titus 2:11-14

Devotional: The consistent conclusion of every warning Jesus gives in the Olivet Discourse is not a calculation or a prediction. It is a call to readiness. Be found without spot or blemish. Be found at peace. Be found awake. The point of not knowing the day or the hour is not frustration -- it is freedom. Freedom from obsessing over timelines and freedom to simply live faithfully in the present. Every act of obedience, every prayer offered, every sin repented of, every neighbor loved is an act of readiness. The church does not wait passively. The church watches actively, working and worshiping until the king returns.

Reflection: If Christ returned today, what would he find you doing? What one concrete step can you take this week to live in greater readiness and faithfulness?