5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide
Based on Mark 14:1-11 and Related Themes

Day 1: The Beauty of Total Surrender
Reading: Mark 14:3-9; Psalm 116:12-14

Devotional: Mary did not calculate what was reasonable to give. She broke the flask entirely and poured everything out. Jesus called it a beautiful thing. There is a profound lesson here: God does not find beauty in measured, cautious devotion. He finds beauty in the soul that holds nothing back. Consider what flasks you are still protecting. What areas of your life remain corked and reserved from God? The question is never whether you have given too much to the Lord. The question is always whether you have given enough. What you have, do it.

Reflection Question: What is one area of your life you have not yet fully surrendered to God?

Practical Application: Identify one thing you have been withholding from God, whether time, a relationship, a habit, or a fear, and bring it to him in prayer today.

Day 2: The Danger of a Money-Obsessed Heart
Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-12; Proverbs 23:6-8

Devotional: Judas looked at an act of breathtaking worship and saw only wasted money. His heart had been so shaped by greed that he could no longer recognize holiness when it stood directly in front of him. This is the devastating effect of the love of money. It does not merely corrupt your finances. It corrupts your vision. It trains your eyes to see everything as a transaction and everyone as a means to personal gain. The antidote is not willpower but generosity. When you begin giving freely, the grip loosens. Money loses its power over the soul that learns to open its hands.

Reflection Question: Are there moments when you find yourself calculating the cost of other people's generosity or measuring your own giving with resentment?

Practical Application: Do one act of anonymous generosity today, no matter how small, and ask God to use it to loosen the grip of self-interest in your heart.

Day 3: Faithful Worship in the Shadow of Betrayal
Reading: John 12:1-8; Psalm 133

Devotional: At the very moment Mary was anointing Jesus with pure nard, Judas was already plotting his betrayal. Worship and treachery sat at the same table.

This is not so different from the church today. True devotion and cold-hearted religion often occupy the same pew. The question is which one describes you. Mary's worship was costly, public, and humbling. She uncovered her hair, knelt at his feet, and gave what she could not get back. She did not know what Judas was planning, but she knew what Jesus was worth. Let her example call you back to costly, wholehearted worship.

Reflection Question: Is your worship of God something that costs you anything, or has it become comfortable and routine?

Practical Application: Set aside extra time in prayer today and approach God with specific gratitude for what Christ has done for you, allowing that gratitude to shape the rest of your day.

Day 4: The Fragrance of Love in the Hour of Suffering

Reading: 2 Corinthians 2:14-16; Isaiah 53:3-6

Devotional: Jesus carried the fragrance of Mary's nard with him through the garden, through the trial, and to the cross. The love of his people was literally upon him in his darkest hour. This is a staggering picture of what the church means to Christ and what Christ endures on behalf of the church. He went to the cross bearing not only our sin but the fragrance of our love and devotion. When you suffer, remember that Christ has already walked through the worst suffering imaginable, and he did it for you. Your prayers, your worship, and your love are never wasted on him.

Reflection Question: How does knowing that Christ suffered on your behalf change the way you approach your own seasons of pain and hardship?

Practical Application: Write down one current difficulty you are facing and spend time meditating on the truth that Christ is present with you in it, just as the fragrance of Mary's gift was present with him.

Day 5: What You Have, Do It

Reading: Luke 21:1-4; Revelation 5:11-14

Devotional: Jesus did not praise Mary because her gift was the largest or the most theologically sophisticated. He praised her because what she had, she did. The widow gave two mites. Mary gave a year's wages in perfume. Both received the same commendation: they gave all they had. God is not measuring your contribution against someone else's. He is asking whether you are faithful with what he has placed in your hands. One day, standing before the throne, every redeemed soul will declare that the Lamb is worthy of all power, wealth, and honor. Let that future declaration shape how you live today.

Reflection Question: What specific gifts, resources, or opportunities has God placed in your hands that you have not yet fully offered back to him?

Practical Application: Make a short list of what God has given you, your time, your talents, your relationships, and your resources, and prayerfully commit each one to his service this week.