

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on Mark 13 and the Olivet Discourse

Day 1: Stay Vigilant -- The Warning of the Good Shepherd

Reading: Mark 13:5-6; John 10:1-5

Devotional: Jesus opens the Olivet Discourse not with a calendar of cosmic events but with a personal command to stay watchful. The very first word He speaks is an ongoing instruction -- keep looking, keep guarding. False voices will always promise shortcuts around the cross, easier paths to glory, or a Jesus who demands nothing. But the sheep of the Good Shepherd are not defenseless. They know His voice because they have spent time listening to it. Daily immersion in Scripture is not optional spiritual enrichment -- it is survival. Ask yourself today: whose voice am I most familiar with?

Day 2: The Good Shepherd Laid Down His Life

Reading: John 10:11-18; Romans 5:6-8

Devotional: False shepherds flee when the wolf arrives. Their love is conditional, self-serving, and temporary. But Jesus describes Himself as the shepherd who willingly lays down His life -- not because He was overpowered, but because He chose it. Romans 5 reminds us that this sacrifice came while we were still sinners, still wandering, still lost. No hired hand does that. This is the defining difference between Christ and every counterfeit religion or ideology the world produces. They demand your devotion. Jesus gave His life first. Rest today in the reality that your shepherd did not run when it cost Him everything.

Day 3: Known by Name -- The Intimacy of the True Shepherd

Reading: John 10:3; John 20:11-16; Psalm 23:1-6

Devotional: In a heaven too vast to number its inhabitants, Jesus knows every single sheep by name. Mary discovered this in the garden -- the moment He spoke her name, she recognized her teacher instantly. This is not the distant, impersonal deity of false religion. This is a shepherd who calls you specifically, personally, and tenderly. Psalm 23 paints the same picture: a God who leads, restores, and accompanies His sheep through the darkest valleys. You are not a number in a crowd to Him. You are known. Meditate today on what it means to be personally called by the Good Shepherd.

Day 4: Building on Truth -- The Foundation That Withstands Deception

Reading: Matthew 7:24-27; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Jude 17-21

Devotional: Jesus warns that many will be led astray -- not a few, not the obviously weak, but many. The safeguard He provides is not a list of heretics to avoid but a life saturated in His Word. Just as a bank teller becomes so familiar with genuine currency that a counterfeit feels wrong immediately, the believer who lives in Scripture develops a sensitivity to falsehood that cannot be manufactured any other way. Jude urges us to build ourselves up in the most holy faith. This is daily work, not a one-time event. What you store in God's Word today becomes your defense tomorrow.

Day 5: Called to Advance -- The Church Is Not Losing

Reading: Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Matthew 16:18

Devotional: Jesus declared that the gates of hell will not prevail against His church. Gates are defensive structures -- it is the church that is on the offensive, pressing forward into the kingdom of darkness with the light of the gospel. Your labors in Christ are never wasted, never without reward, and never without eternal consequence. The same Lord who commissioned the early church to build colleges, hospitals, and orphanages because they believed the gospel was worth investing in for future generations commissions you today. Be faithful where you are planted. The Good Shepherd goes before His sheep. Follow Him boldly into whatever field He has placed before you.