

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

10-11-26 'Die a Beggar', from the "The Promise of Heaven" Sermon Series

Day 1: Where Are You Now?

Reading: Luke 16:19-31

Devotional: Jesus gives a name to the beggar in this story. That detail matters. Lazarus was not a nameless face in a crowd. He was known. In the same way, you are known by name before God. The rich man had every earthly comfort but arrived at eternity empty-handed. His first concern was not for himself but for his brothers who still had time. That urgency should stir something in us. The people in your life still have time. The question this passage presses on every reader is not merely where others are going, but where you are headed and what you are doing about it today.

Personal Reflection: Write down the name of one person in your life whose eternal destination you are uncertain about. Commit to praying for them this week.

Practical Application: Identify one natural opportunity this week to have a genuine, honest conversation with that person about faith.

Day 2: Carried by Angels

Reading: Hebrews 1:14, Psalm 91:11-12, Luke 16:22

Devotional: Scripture describes angels as ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation. In Luke 16, Lazarus is not simply said to have died and gone to heaven. He was carried there. He was escorted. There is intention and care in that image. God did not leave Lazarus to find his own way. The same God who knew Lazarus by name and sent angels to bring him home is the God who knows your name today. Suffering does not mean abandonment. The beggar at the gate, covered in sores and ignored by the world, was seen by heaven and personally escorted into paradise.

Personal Reflection: Have there been seasons of your life where you felt invisible or forgotten? How does the image of Lazarus being carried change the way you view those moments?

Practical Application: Spend five minutes in quiet prayer today, simply thanking God that He sees you and that His care for you does not depend on your circumstances.

Day 3: I Would Rather Die a Beggar

Reading: Matthew 16:26, 1 Timothy 6:6-10, Philippians 3:7-8

Devotional: Paul describes in Philippians 3 how he counted everything he had previously valued as loss compared to knowing Christ. This is not a call to poverty. It is a call to proper priority. The rich man in Luke 16 had everything the world told him he needed and arrived at eternity with nothing that mattered. Earthly achievement, wealth, status, and comfort are not wrong in themselves, but they are temporary. They cannot cross the chasm. The song referenced in the sermon captures this plainly: it is better to die with nothing in hand and everything in Christ than to arrive at heaven's gate having chosen the world over the One who made it.

Personal Reflection: What things in your life are you holding onto that you know, honestly, have become more important to you than your relationship with God?

Practical Application: Choose one area of your life this week where you will intentionally loosen your grip and surrender it to God through prayer and a concrete act of trust.

Day 4: Warn Your Brothers

Reading: Ezekiel 3:18-19, Romans 10:14-15, James 5:19-20

Devotional: The rich man in torment did not ask for a second chance for himself. He asked for someone to warn his family. He understood too late that the people he loved still had an opportunity he no longer had. Ezekiel 3 describes a sobering responsibility: if we know the truth and stay silent, we bear a weight for that silence. Romans 10 asks how people will hear without someone to tell them. The answer is that they will not. Discomfort in a conversation is real, but it is temporary. The alternative, staying silent while someone you love walks toward an eternity separated from God, is far heavier than any awkward moment.

Personal Reflection: What has kept you from sharing your faith with someone close to you? Is it fear of rejection, fear of conflict, or simply not knowing what to say?

Practical Application: This week, pray specifically for boldness and then take one small step, whether that is sending a message, extending an invitation, or simply asking someone how they are really doing.

Day 5: Memory, Chasm, and the Grace of Today

Reading: 2 Corinthians 6:2, Hebrews 9:27, Revelation 21:3-4

Devotional: Abraham reminded the rich man to remember his earthly life. Memory persists into eternity. That is both a comfort and a warning. For those in paradise, memory is redeemed. For those separated from God, it remains. The chasm Abraham describes is fixed and final. But here is the grace of this passage: you are reading this today, which means the chasm has not been fixed for you yet. Second Corinthians 6 declares that now is the day of salvation. Not eventually. Not when things settle down. Now. Revelation 21 promises that for those who are with God, every tear will be wiped away and death will be no more. That promise is available to you today, and it is worth everything.

Personal Reflection: If today were your last day, what would you most want to have said or done differently? What does your answer reveal about what truly matters to you?

Practical Application: If you have never made a decision to follow Jesus, today is the day. Admit your need, believe in who He is and what He has done, and confess that with your words. If you already follow Him, share this reading plan with someone who does not.

This reading plan is intended to be used alongside a local church community. Consider working through it with a small group or life group for deeper conversation and accountability.