5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

What Remains?

Day 1: The Gift of the Present

Reading: Ecclesiastes 9:7-10 — The Teacher commands his readers to eat, drink, love, and work with full investment in the life before them, because God has already approved the joy of living.

Devotional: It is easy to postpone joy. We tell ourselves we will celebrate when circumstances improve, when the ledger balances, when life feels more certain. But the Teacher does not offer a suggestion — he issues a command. Go. Eat. Drink. Love. Work. God's approval of your enjoyment was not withheld pending your worthiness. It was signed before you pulled up a chair. Today, receive the ordinary gifts of your life — a meal, a relationship, a task — as things God has already blessed. Do not wait for a better moment. This is the moment.

Day 2: Honest About the Darkness

Reading: Ecclesiastes 11:7-8 — The Teacher celebrates the sweetness of light and the pleasure of many years lived, while refusing to look away from the truth that dark days will come and will be many.

Devotional: Scripture does not ask us to pretend. The Teacher holds both realities in the same breath — rejoice in every year, and remember that darkness is coming. This is not pessimism. It is honesty in service of gratitude. Faith that cannot survive an honest look at suffering is fragile faith. The days of darkness do not cancel the light; they make it precious. When you are in a season of shadow, you are not outside the Teacher's vision — you are inside it. The text that tells you to rejoice is the same text that sees your darkness clearly.

Day 3: Four Words That Change Everything

Reading: John 2:1-5 — At a wedding in Cana, Mary observes a shortage and brings it to Jesus in four words. His response is ambiguous, but her confidence in him is not. She instructs the servants to do whatever he tells them.

Devotional: Mary does not diagnose the problem at length. She does not propose a solution. She simply names the emptiness and places it before the one who can answer it. There is a profound model of prayer in those four words. We do not always need elaborate petitions. Sometimes the most faithful thing we can do is name what is missing and trust the one we are telling. Notice also what Mary does next — she does not wait for a clear answer before she acts in faith. She moves toward obedience before the outcome is certain. That is what trust looks like.

Day 4: The Ones Who Know

Reading: John 2:6-10 — Jesus instructs servants to fill six stone jars with water. They do the hard, unglamorous work of filling them to the brim. When the water becomes wine and the steward marvels, he credits the groom. The servants know the truth. The steward does not.

Devotional: Grace rarely announces itself to those standing at a distance. It is most visible to those who did the work of showing up. The servants filled the jars. They drew the wine. They carried the cups. They knew exactly where it came from. The steward received the gift without knowing the giver. This is not a rebuke of the steward — he simply was not close enough to see. Draw near. Do the work that puts you in proximity to what God is doing. Obedience is not how we earn grace; it is how we witness it.

Day 5: The Good Wine Kept Until Now

Reading: John 2:10-11 — The steward marvels that the best wine has been saved for last, reversing every expectation. The writer identifies this as the first of Jesus' signs — a moment that points beyond itself to something greater.

Devotional: The Teacher of Ecclesiastes said to drink now because there may be no later. Cana says drink now because the later is already here. Both are invitations to present joy, but they rest on different foundations. The Teacher's joy is borrowed against an uncertain future. The joy of Cana is poured from an abundance that has already arrived. A sign always points past itself. The best wine served last is not simply a detail of hospitality — it is a declaration about the nature of God's grace. It does not diminish. It does not run out. It is kept, and it is good, and it is poured for you now.