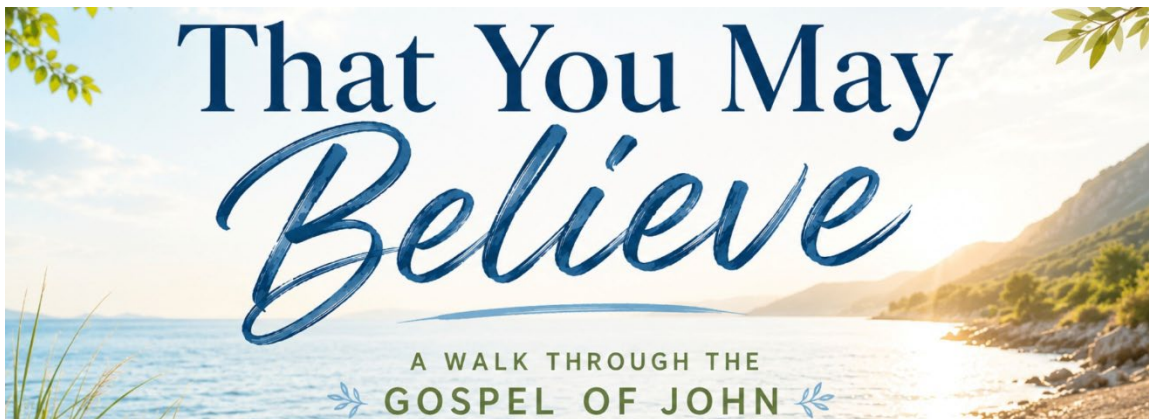




That You May Believe: A Walk Through the Gospel of John - Wk 18

(John 12:1-11)

Sunday, September 27, 2026

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Theme: The Value of Worship and the Worth of Jesus

Day 1: The Posture of Worship

Reading: Psalm 73:25-28

Devotional: Mary did not calculate the cost before she broke open her jar of nard. She simply recognized who was in the room. Psalm 73:25-28 captures this posture precisely, declaring that God alone is the soul's true desire and strength above all earthly things. Worship is not a scheduled obligation or a box to check. It is the natural overflow of a heart that has genuinely encountered Jesus. Ask yourself honestly today: when you enter the presence of God, what is your first instinct? Do you arrive distracted, or do you arrive surrendered? Begin this week by choosing surrender before anything else demands your attention.

Reflection Question: What do you consistently place above Jesus in the ordering of your daily life?

Practical Application: Before beginning your day, pause for five minutes in silence and direct your first conscious thoughts toward Jesus rather than your schedule or responsibilities.

Day 2: Generous Devotion

Reading: John 12:1-8

Devotional: A year's worth of wages, poured out without hesitation. Mary's act of worship was not modest or measured. It was extravagant, irreversible, and deeply personal. She did not wipe Jesus' feet

with a cloth from the kitchen. She used her hair, the most intimate offering she could give. Genuine worship costs something. It requires that we bring the best of what we have, not what remains after everything else has been satisfied. The sermon reminds us that God is often given leftovers: the energy left at the end of the week, the time left at the end of the day. Mary modeled a different way entirely.

Reflection Question: In what area of your life are you giving Jesus your leftovers rather than your first and best?

Practical Application: Identify one resource, whether time, talent, or finances, that you have been withholding from God. Take one concrete step today toward offering it more fully.

Day 3: The Danger of Devaluing Jesus

Reading: Zechariah 11:12-13; Matthew 26:14-16

Devotional: Judas stood in the same room as Mary, witnessed the same act of worship, and walked away with a plan to sell Jesus for the price of a slave. The contrast is staggering. Both Judas and Mary assigned Jesus a value that day, and their actions revealed what was truly in their hearts. Zechariah's prophecy, written centuries before the betrayal, shows us that God is never surprised when people undervalue Him. The sobering truth is that devaluing Jesus is not always dramatic. It happens quietly, in the small daily decisions where we choose comfort, convenience, or self-preservation over wholehearted devotion to Him.

Reflection Question: Where in your life have you been quietly negotiating with Jesus rather than surrendering to Him?

Practical Application: Confess one area where self-interest has been shaping your spiritual decisions more than genuine love for God. Bring that area before Him in honest prayer today.

Day 4: Worship Rooted in Gratitude

Reading: John 11:32-44; Luke 7:47

Devotional: It is no accident that Mary's extravagant worship took place in the presence of her resurrected brother. Lazarus was sitting at the table, alive, because Jesus had called him out of the grave. Mary's worship was not abstract or theoretical. It was the direct response of a woman who had watched death be defeated by the voice of her friend. Gratitude is one of the most powerful engines of genuine worship. When we forget what we have been saved from and rescued out of, our worship grows cold and mechanical. Remembering the grace of God in our own story fuels the kind of devotion that breaks open jars and pours out everything.

Reflection Question: When did you last take deliberate time to remember and reflect on what God has specifically rescued you from?

Practical Application: Write down three moments in your life where God intervened, restored, or rescued you. Read them aloud as an act of worship and thanksgiving today.

Day 5: Abiding in the One Worth Everything

Reading: John 15:1-11

Devotional: The sermon closed with a powerful image: the branch drawing everything it needs from the vine. Worship is not merely an event that happens on Sunday mornings. It is the ongoing posture of a life fully connected to Jesus. John 15:1-11 describes a relationship so close that the branch cannot survive, let alone bear fruit, apart from the vine. Mary understood this intuitively. She was not performing for the room. She was responding to the One she could not imagine living without. This is the destination of the reading plan: not simply to admire Mary's devotion from a distance, but to cultivate the kind of abiding relationship with Jesus that makes extravagant worship feel not like sacrifice, but like the most natural thing in the world.

Reflection Question: What specific habits or distractions are currently preventing you from abiding deeply in Christ?

Practical Application: Choose one daily practice this week, whether Scripture reading, prayer, or quiet reflection, and commit to it consistently as an act of intentional abiding in Jesus rather than a religious duty.