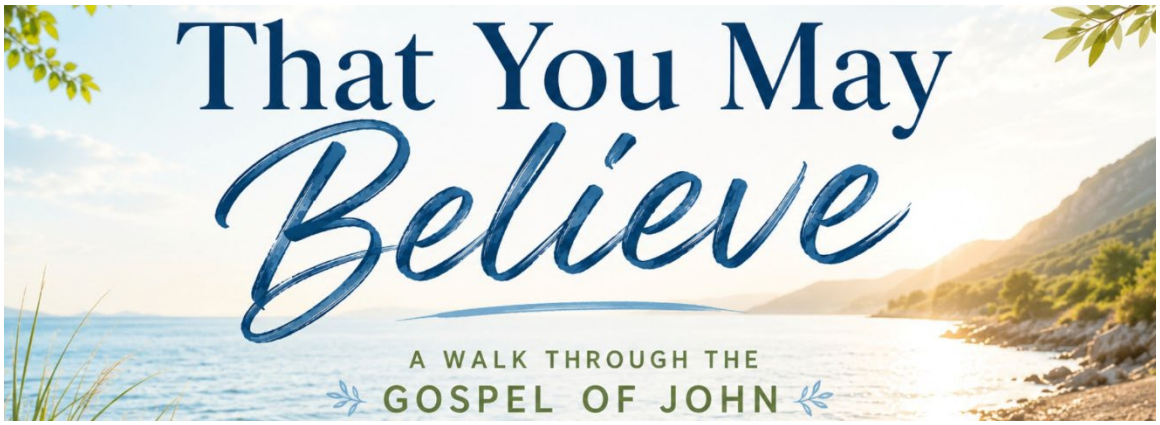


That You May Believe: A Walk Through the Gospel of John - Wk 21

(John 13:1-17)

Sunday, October 18, 2026

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Rooted in the Love and Service of Christ

Day 1: A Love Without Conditions

Reading: Romans 8:35-39 — Paul affirms that nothing in all creation has the power to separate us from the love God has shown us in Christ Jesus.

Devotional: Jesus knelt before Judas — the one who would betray Him — and washed his feet with the same tenderness He showed every other disciple. That image is almost too much to take in. His love drew no lines. It set no conditions. It asked for nothing in return. We tend to ration our love carefully, pulling it back when people disappoint us or wound us. But Christ modeled something entirely different. His love was not a reward for good behavior. It was a gift given freely, even to those who did not want it. Today, consider where you have placed conditions on your love for others. Ask God to replace that conditional love with something that looks more like His.

Reflection Question: Is there someone in your life you have written off? What would it look like to extend the love of Christ toward them today?

Practical Application: Write the name of one person you find difficult to love. Pray specifically for them each day this week.

Day 2: The Scandal of Grace

Reading: Ephesians 2:4-9 — Paul describes how God, rich in mercy, saved us not because of anything we did or deserved, but entirely because of His great love for us.

Devotional: Grace is called scandalous for a reason. It does not make logical sense. We did not earn it. We cannot maintain it through our own effort. We certainly do not deserve it. And yet God gives it freely. As the song sung in worship declared, Christ died in our place — accused in the absence of wrong — so that our souls could live. This is the heart of the gospel. The cross was not a transaction between equals. It was God absorbing the full weight of our failure so that we would not have to. That is not a small thing. That is everything. When grace feels routine or ordinary to you, return to the cross and look again at what it actually cost.

Reflection Question: Have you allowed grace to become something you take for granted rather than something that moves you?

Practical Application: Spend five minutes today simply thanking God for specific sins He has forgiven. Name them. Be specific. Let gratitude rise from honesty.

Day 3: Clean Feet for a Dirty Road

Reading: 1 John 1:8-10 — John assures believers that when we honestly confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Devotional: Jesus told His disciples they were already clean — they had already experienced salvation — but their feet needed washing because they had been walking through a dirty world. That picture speaks directly to the life of every believer. When we come to Christ, we are fully forgiven. Our standing before God does not shift every time we stumble. But we do walk through a world that leaves its mark on us. Wrong choices, careless words, wandering thoughts — these things cling to us. And when they do, Christ is not waiting with disappointment. He is already kneeling, ready to wash our feet again. Confession is not the beginning of salvation. It is the ongoing maintenance of a relationship already established in grace.

Reflection Question: Is there something you have been carrying that you have not yet brought honestly before God?

Practical Application: Set aside time today for unhurried, honest confession. Do not rush past it. Let the cleansing of grace be something you actually feel.

Day 4: Not to Be Served, But to Serve

Reading: Mark 10:42-45 — Jesus tells His disciples that true greatness in His kingdom is not found in authority over others, but in becoming a servant to all, just as He came not to be served but to give His life for many.

Devotional: While Jesus was washing feet, the disciples were quietly debating which one of them was the greatest. The contrast is almost painful to read. The Son of God, on His knees, cleaning the dirt from the feet of men who were in the same room arguing about their own importance. We are not so different. We want to be recognized. We want our contributions noticed. We want our rank acknowledged. But Jesus consistently pointed away from status and toward service. He did not wash feet to make a point

and walk away. He washed feet because that is who He is. If Christ lives in us, then that servant nature lives in us as well. The question is whether we are willing to let it lead.

Reflection Question: Where in your daily life is God calling you to serve in a way that may go unnoticed or unappreciated?

Practical Application: Perform one act of service today that no one will know about. Do not mention it. Let it be between you and God alone.

Day 5: Now That You Know, Go Do It

Reading: James 1:22-25 — James warns that hearing the Word without acting on it is like glancing in a mirror and walking away unchanged. True blessing comes to those who hear and then do.

Devotional: Jesus finished washing His disciples' feet, sat back down, and asked a simple question: do you understand what I just did? He then made His expectation clear. He had given them an example. Now they were to follow it. Knowledge without action is incomplete. The church was never designed to be a place where people gather information about Jesus and then return home unchanged. It was designed to be a launching point — a place where believers are built up, encouraged, and then sent out to replicate the life of Christ in the world around them. You have seen what Jesus does. You know how He loves. You understand the grace He offers. The only question remaining is whether you will go and do the same.

Reflection Question: What is one specific truth about Christ that you know well but have not yet allowed to change the way you live?

Practical Application: Identify one tangible way to be the hands and feet of Jesus in your community this week. Commit to it. Follow through. Let what you know become what you do.