# 5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

**Based on the Themes of Stewardship, Contentment, and Kingdom Living**

---

## Day 1: The Foundation Before Everything Else

**Reading:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

**Devotional:** Before any conversation about money, budgets, or stewardship can carry weight, the gospel must be the foundation. Christ's body broken and blood poured out is not a ritual to rush past — it is the reason everything else matters. The pastor reminded his congregation that "the work that Christ wants to do is established by the work that Christ has already done." You did not earn your salvation, and you cannot earn God's favor through financial discipline alone. Stewardship flows from gratitude, not obligation. Today, sit quietly with the reality of what Christ has done. Let wonder be your starting point.

**Personal Reflection:** What does it mean to you personally that your standing before God is not earned but given freely through Christ?

**Practical Application:** Before reviewing your finances or making any spending decisions today, spend five minutes in prayer thanking God specifically for what Christ accomplished on your behalf.

---

## Day 2: The Snare We Do Not See

**Reading:** 1 Timothy 6:6-10

**Devotional:** Scripture is clear that godliness paired with contentment is great gain. The passage does not condemn money itself but rather the love of it — the craving that quietly becomes the water we swim in without noticing. Paul warns in this passage that those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and that harmful desires plunge people into ruin. The danger is not always obvious. A snare works precisely because the bait smells good. Discontentment does not announce itself loudly. It simply whispers "what else" until that question becomes the air you breathe. Recognizing the snare is the first step toward freedom.

**Personal Reflection:** Where in your life has the quiet craving for "what else" become so normal that you have stopped noticing it?

**Practical Application:** Write down three specific things God has provided for you that you have taken for granted. Spend time in genuine thanksgiving for each one before the day ends.

---

## Day 3: Two Kingdoms, One Choice

**Reading:** Matthew 6:19-24

**Devotional:** Jesus does not present a complicated argument. He presents a clear and unavoidable choice: treasure on earth or treasure in heaven. What makes this passage so penetrating is that Jesus connects the location of your treasure directly to the condition of your heart. He does not say your treasure follows your heart. He says your heart follows your treasure. This means that where you consistently place your resources is actively shaping what you love. The kingdom of debt and the kingdom of next are both alternatives to the kingdom of God. None of them can coexist peacefully with full devotion to Christ. The choice is made daily, often quietly.

**Personal Reflection:** If someone examined your spending over the last thirty days without knowing anything else about you, what would they conclude you treasure most?

**Practical Application:** Review one week of your recent spending. Without judgment, simply observe what your financial decisions reveal about where your heart has been pointing.

---

## Day 4: Contentment as a Spiritual Practice

**Reading:** Philippians 4:11-13

**Devotional:** Paul writes in this passage that contentment is something he has learned — not something he was born with or that arrived automatically. This is profoundly encouraging. Contentment is not a personality trait reserved for naturally easygoing people. It is a practiced discipline available to every believer through Christ who strengthens us. The pastor made an important observation: contentment is not only something we pursue through discipline, but something God cultivates in us as we commit our resources to him. Releasing your grip on finances and declaring them God's property invites the Holy Spirit to do what willpower alone cannot — settle your heart in genuine peace.

**Personal Reflection:** In what area of your financial life do you find contentment most difficult to practice? What does that difficulty reveal about where you are placing your trust?

**Practical Application:** Identify one area where discontentment has been driving a financial decision. Bring it specifically to God in prayer today, asking him to cultivate contentment in you rather than simply trying harder on your own.

---

## Day 5: Faithful Stewardship as an Act of Worship

**Reading:** Luke 16:10-13

**Devotional:** Jesus teaches in this passage that faithfulness with small things is the proving ground for faithfulness with greater things. Stewardship is not primarily about the size of your income. It is about the posture of your heart toward whatever God has entrusted to you. A budget is not a spiritual document, but the values behind a budget can be. Tracking your spending is not worship, but the awareness it creates can lead you to worship. The goal is not financial perfection. The goal is a heart so oriented toward God that every financial decision becomes a quiet act of trust. A steward manages all entrusted resources for God's glory — not out of obligation, but out of love.

**Personal Reflection:** What would it look like practically for your financial decisions this week to be acts of worship rather than simply transactions?

**Practical Application:** Take one concrete step toward faithful stewardship this week — create a budget, download a tracking tool, eliminate one area of unnecessary spending, or set aside a specific amount to give. Commit that step to God in prayer, asking him to make your faithfulness in small things a reflection of your love for him.