5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Theme: The Sacred Mystery of Marriage and the Gospel

Day 1: In the Beginning, God Designed It

Reading: Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:18-24

Devotional: Before culture debated marriage, God defined it. From the very first pages of Scripture, we see that the union of a man and woman was not an accident of history or a social invention. It was a deliberate act of a purposeful Creator. God fashioned two distinct beings, each bearing his image, and brought them together into one flesh. This design was not incidental. It was intentional, ordered, and good. As you read today, resist the urge to filter this through what culture says marriage is. Instead, ask God to show you what he always intended it to be.

Reflection: In what ways have cultural definitions of marriage shaped your thinking more than Scripture has?

Day 2: What God Joins Together

Reading: Matthew 19:1-9; Mark 10:6-9

Devotional: When the Pharisees challenged Jesus about the permanence of marriage, he did not appeal to Roman law or cultural tradition. He went back to creation. Jesus grounded the meaning and permanence of marriage in the very act of God joining two people together. This tells us something profound: marriage is not merely a human agreement that can be renegotiated when inconvenient. It is a divine joining. The weight of that truth should cause every married person to pause and ask not just "are we happy?" but "are we honoring what God has bound together?" The covenant was made before God, and it reflects his character.

Reflection: How does viewing your marriage as something God has joined together change the way you approach conflict or difficulty within it?

Day 3: The Mystery Revealed

Reading: Ephesians 5:22-33

Devotional: Paul pulls back the curtain on something staggering. The marriage between a husband and wife is not simply a social institution or a legal arrangement. It is a living picture of the relationship between Jesus Christ and his church. Thousands of years before Christ walked the earth, God embedded the gospel into the very structure of marriage. The husband's sacrificial love points to Christ. The wife's trusting submission points to the church. Together, they display the gospel to a watching world. This means your marriage is not just about you and your spouse. It is a sermon preached without words every single day.

Reflection: In what specific ways does your marriage currently reflect or fail to reflect the relationship between Christ and the church?

Day 4: The Refining Work of Covenant Love

Reading: Proverbs 27:17; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Hebrews 10:24-25

Devotional: One of the purposes of marriage is the mutual refining of two people toward Christ-likeness. This is not a comfortable process. Iron sharpens iron through friction. A spouse will see the parts of you that you most want to hide, and if the marriage is rooted in the gospel, those exposed places become opportunities for grace and growth. This is not license for a husband or wife to appoint themselves the spiritual corrector of their spouse. Rather, it is an invitation to live in such a way that your love, your patience, and your faithfulness call your spouse upward. Covenant love does not settle. It sanctifies.

Reflection: Where in your marriage is God currently doing his most significant refining work in you personally?

Day 5: Singleness, Prayer, and the Glory of God

Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; 2 Corinthians 6:14; Revelation 19:6-9

Devotional: The call to honor God's design for marriage extends to those who are not yet married. Singleness is not a waiting room. It is a season with its own sacred purpose and undivided devotion to God. For those who are single and hoping to marry, Scripture is clear that the spiritual foundation of a marriage matters above all else. An unequally yoked marriage does not simply create inconvenience. It undermines the very gospel witness that marriage is designed to display. And for every believer, married or single, the final marriage has not yet come. Revelation points to the marriage supper of the Lamb, when Christ and his church are united forever. That is the marriage every earthly union is meant to point toward.

Reflection: Whether married or single, how is your life currently pointing others toward the ultimate union of Christ and his church?