



Only One

40 DAYS OF PRAYER GUIDE

Only One

A LETTER FROM PASTOR CHRIS

This year's **40 days of prayer** emphasis has finally arrived. We chose to plan the prayer focus to coincide with the Lenten season. The period of Lent is the 40 days that precede Easter. It is a wonderful time to fix our hearts on Jesus and reflect on what He has given to us as we prepare to celebrate his resurrection. This year we will focus on the theme of Jesus, Our Only One. I would ask you to invite someone to engage in this journey along with us.

I am thankful to many who worked very diligently to produce this guide. This year we had contributions from several people. You will see their names noted on the day that they contributed. I am so thankful for their willingness and participation.

I thought it may be helpful to give a brief explanation of the prayer prompts. Each day is broken down into several points of prayer that will guide you through a day. Space is given after each prayer prompt to allow you space to journal through your prayer time. There are five sections that make up each day. Below is a brief explanation of each section.

Praise and Thanksgiving Paul tells us to "Rejoice in the Lord always!" We can put that into practice. It is a great opportunity to begin each day with Prayer and Thanksgiving to the Lord.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse Praying scripture is a fruitful practice. Pray for the truth revealed today to be solidified in your heart. Pray that the Lord would fulfill His word.

Prayer of Repentance Reflection may lead to a need for repentance, and we all need time of confession before the Lord.

Prayers of Intercession One of the greatest privileges we have is to lift others before the Lord and ask for His grace in their lives. Make a prayer list and pray for others! Journal it and look back and reflect on what the Lord is doing.

Prayer for Needfulness. We all certainly have needs in our lives that we must pray about and ask the Lord for strength, guidance, wisdom, and perseverance. Pray for these in your own life.

This 40 days has the potential to be an incredibly fruitful time for your walk with the Lord. I pray that you would be edified through God's Word!

Day One

JESUS OUR ONLY ONE ~ SECTION 1

MARCH 2ND ~ DR. CHRIS DEGEORGE

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

I am excited to have the opportunity to put this prayer guide before you. Prayer is a vital part of our walk with God. In Philippians 4: 6 Paul encourages the Philippians to, "Rejoice in the Lord always," and in all things. He tells them to, "be anxious for nothing," and tells them that they may know the "peace of God which passes all understanding." This, he says, "will guard their hearts and their minds in Christ Jesus." He reveals to them that they can experience this through prayer. In fact, he tells them, "in all things through prayer and supplication with thanksgiving present your requests to God." What a marvelous privilege it is, and what a generous impact it makes. We can know peace because we can know God in Christ, and we can lift our prayers before Him. My hope is that these next 40 days will yield abundance in your personal life as you focus daily on these prayer prompts. I also pray that it will impact the church for the glory of Christ! Would you pray that God would work in you through these 40 days? Would you pray that the church would be impacted to serve Christ more faithfully? Draw near to Him!

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Two

JESUS OUR ONLY ONE ~ SECTION 1

MARCH 3RD ~ DR. CHRIS DEGEORGE

COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in Him, all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross."

Preeminence is an intricate word. It speaks of priority and being first in status. Jesus is, as the firstborn of God, the one who has preeminence. These verses speak of the work of the pre-existent Christ who became flesh and dwelt among us. He is the firstborn of creation, who made all things and holds all things together, and is the head of the Church. This speaks to us of the priority that should be given to Jesus in all things. This is especially applicable to our lives. Over these next 40 days will you give priority to Jesus as the one who is preeminent? Will you devote yourself to prayer and seek His face?

Today would you pray that God would allow you to see the beauty of Christ and the priority He should have? Would you ask God to give you a desire for His presence and glory in your life?

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Three

JESUS OUR ONLY ONE ~ SECTION 1

MARCH 4TH ~ DR. CHRIS DEGEORGE

EPHESIANS 3:1-6

"For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel."

Paul struggled against false teaching. The false teachers claimed that there was a mystery to be revealed and understood. In his struggle, he sought to make them aware of the realities of what Christ has done for us. He classifies the mystery as having been revealed in Christ. There is no more wondering about how to find peace, and no more looking for rescue in anything else. There is only one. Jesus has brought these things to us, and He has brought them to Jew and Gentile alike. In Christ, there is salvation for all who would believe.

Would you thank God for Jesus and would you praise Him that there is no mystery to be sought and found except to recognize that Jesus is Lord? Would you pray for those who are searching that they may come to realize what Paul is speaking of in this passage?

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Four

JESUS OUR ONLY ONE ~ SECTION 1

MARCH 5TH ~ DR. CHRIS DEGEORGE

MATTHEW 16:13-20

"Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ."

It is certainly important to understand what people in the world around us believe about Jesus. Yet the most important thing is to know what we believe about Jesus. This is because we have been directly impacted by Him. Jesus asked the disciples what others were saying about Him, and whom they believed Him to be. Jesus turns the tables on them to see whether they had come to believe what was true. There is a temptation for everyone that they would be able to give information about who Jesus is but never move to a personal testimony of their own belief. We must decide who we believe Jesus to be, and then confess this truth as we live it out. Peter says, "you are the Christ, The son of the living God." This confession would signify that Jesus was not only the head of the church but the King of Peter's life. May it be so with our lives as well. Would you pray today that you would know clearly who Jesus is, and proclaim Him just as Peter did? Would you thank God that Jesus, the Messiah, has come?

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Five

JESUS OUR ONLY ONE ~ SECTION 1

MARCH 6TH ~ DR. CHRIS DEGEORGE

ROMANS 10:9

" if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Confession and belief are the imperatives of this conditional statement Paul makes. "If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." To confess is to proclaim a reality of your life. The reality to be confessed is that Jesus is your Lord. This is to give testimony to what is true. When Paul says, "believe with your heart that God has raised Him from the dead," he is referencing the belief of what is true. That He has been raised from the dead by God demonstrates the standing of Jesus as Lord, and the power of God to save. These are the realities of accepting Christ as Lord and following him. The beautiful words that follow are, "You will be saved." Today would you praise God that He has made this invitation? Would you ask yourself whether you have been saved?

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Six

JESUS OUR ONLY ONE ~ SECTION 1

MARCH 7TH ~ DR. CHRIS DEGEORGE

LUKE 4:16-19

"And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

We often think about having a purpose. Whether in life, in a task, or through what we do, everyone wants to be intentional. Jesus gives us a window into what His purpose was. As He reads the scriptures in the synagogue, He proclaims that Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled. Of course, He was speaking about Himself. We see Jesus give a message of hope, healing, and freedom. These prophecies find their fulfillment in Jesus' defeat of sin and death. He has won Victory! Would you praise God today for the victory He has given? Would you pray that, as you define purpose for your life, you would share that victory with others?

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Seven

JESUS OUR ONLY ONE ~ SECTION 1

MARCH 8TH ~ DR. CHRIS DEGEORGE

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-10

"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

The picture of Jesus' servanthood demonstrates to us the lengths to which God went to bring salvation. Jesus considered Himself of no account. He, "did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped." That means He did not see it as something to be taken hold of and conspicuously exercised. Jesus became a servant instead. The submission He shows and servanthood He demonstrated serves as an example to us. We must ask whether we are willing to make ourselves of no account. We must ask whether we are willing to do this to glorify God? Are we willing to become a servant so that Christ would be glorified?

Would you thank Jesus for the sacrifice He has made on your behalf? Would you praise Him for his servanthood? Will you pray that God would give you a willingness to serve others in that way?

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Eight

JESUS OUR ONLY ONE ~ SECTION 1

MARCH 9TH ~ DR. CHRIS DEGEORGE

ROMANS 5:1

"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Peace is something that we may hear of often. Many spend their lives on a quest to find peace. If we are honest, peace is our greatest need. In the search to find peace, we go after what we most want. The peace that we seek results from the meeting of a need, or of something being satisfied on a base level in us. Paul tells us that through faith in Christ we have peace with God. When we trust in Christ for the forgiveness of sin, He extends grace. This grace washes us clean through His shed blood. The result is peace with God. The debt of sin satisfied in Christ alone.

Would you thank God for making peace through Christ? Would you reflect on the marvelous grace which God has extended to us that allows us to be his children?

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Nine

JESUS OUR ONLY ONE ~ SECTION 1

MARCH 10TH ~ DR. CHRIS DEGEORGE

ROMANS 5:2

"Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

Paul speaks of making his stand in the grace of Jesus. This grace leads to salvation but also impacts our lives daily. Grace is at work as we grow into the likeness of Christ. In this grace, Paul makes his stand. It's interesting to see the things that people will stand for. Those convictions are demonstrated through any number of causes. What about you? Where would you say that you make your stand? Is it in the Amazing Grace of Jesus?

Would you pray today that God would make you aware of your need for His grace in your life? Would you ask Him to help you stand in that grace through all circumstances?

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Ten

JESUS OUR ONLY ONE ~ SECTION 1

MARCH 11TH ~ DR. CHRIS DEGEORGE

MATTHEW 7:24-29

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it." And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes."

Jesus closes out His teaching from the sermon on the mount with a practical calling. The calling is to put into practice what He has said. Those that do not heed the Word are those who are building on sand which is prone to washing away. The ones who hear and heed Jesus' words are building on a solid foundation. This foundation will stand when tested. We are called not only to hear Jesus' words but to follow them. The truest evidence that we believe something is for it to become a conviction. Then, conviction finds its way to action. That is our calling. May we embody faithfulness to Jesus. As we are faithful let us build on the solid rock that Jesus provides us. Will you pray that you would be faithful? Would you pray that, as Jesus' Word impacts your heart, you would not be reluctant nor resistant? Instead, would you be ready to follow?

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Eleven

A TIME OF RENEWAL ~ SECTION 2

MARCH 12TH ~ MERLIN LIVERMAN

JOHN 12:23-26

"And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.."

In this passage, our Lord Jesus urges His followers to become His servants. To do this, we must be like the grain of wheat and die to self-centered living and surrender to our Lord daily, asking Him to fill us with His Holy Spirit. In doing so, we are truly used by our Lord to reveal His life to others.

I pray that the fruits of the life of my Lord Jesus might be seen in my life. The fruits of His life that I find in Galatians 5:22-23.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Twelve

A TIME OF RENEWAL ~ SECTION 2

MARCH 13TH ~ MERLIN LIVERMAN

JOHN 13:4-17

"He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean." When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."

In this passage, our Lord Jesus washes the feet of His disciples. His washing of their feet represents God's forgiveness of our daily sins. Just as He washes our feet, we are to wash the feet of all who have sinned against us. (vs. 14-15) There is no renewal in our lives without God forgiving our daily sins. There is no renewal without our forgiving others of their sins against us.

Lord, I pray that I would have your strength and power in my life to walk in forgiveness each day toward any who have offended me.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Thirteen

A TIME OF RENEWAL ~ SECTION 2

MARCH 14TH ~ MERLIN LIVERMAN

JOHN 13:34-35

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

In these teachings, our Lord tells us the basic way the world will know that we belong to Him. He tells us to love others just as He loves us. This is not just a teaching, but a command for us to love others. We must have the power of His Holy Spirit to do this. His love, flowing in and through our lives, is the greatest blessing for us, and for those who know us.

Lord, each day I pray that you will fill me with yourself so I might be an instrument of your love for others.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Fourteen

A TIME OF RENEWAL ~ SECTION 2

MARCH 15TH ~ MERLIN LIVERMAN

JOHN 14:1-3

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."

Our Lord Jesus has gone to heaven to prepare for us a place. This is so that where He is, we might dwell with Him and the family of God forever. He can come any day now to take us to be with Himself. We can be ready for His coming by seeking Him daily. We can allow Him to take control of our lives and to use us as His servants.

Lord, I want to be ready for your coming today. I ask you to fill me with Your Spirit that I might be serving You and others when You come.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Fifteen

A TIME OF RENEWAL ~ SECTION 2

MARCH 16TH ~ MERLIN LIVERMAN

JOHN 14:10-15

"Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

Our Lord Jesus teaches us how His Father worked in and through His life. He said that His Father lived and abided in Him to accomplish His works. He also said that we who are saved and have the spirit of God living in us would do the works that He did and even greater works. He said that if we abide in Him that we would have great power in prayer: "Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

Lord, help me walk and talk with You each day even as You did with Your Father. Let it be so that You might do Your ministry in and through me. Let me ask for things in prayer that will glorify Your name.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Sixteen

A TIME OF RENEWAL ~ SECTION 2

MARCH 17TH ~ MERLIN LIVERMAN

JOHN 14:16-21

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

Our Lord does not leave us to follow His teachings or to do His work in our own strength and power. He knows we would never be able to do it alone. He has given us a helper – His Holy Spirit. He said that He abides with us and shall be in us. He said that through His Spirit He would come to us, not leaving us as orphans. Because He saved us from our sins, we love Him and want to keep His commandments. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to do this.

Lord, thank you for providing the Holy Spirit to be my helper in the Christian life. I love You and worship You. Fill me with Your Spirit so that I may do what You have taught me to do.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Seventeen

A TIME OF RENEWAL ~ SECTION 2

MARCH 18TH ~ MERLIN LIVERMAN

JOHN 14:23-27

"Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

In this passage, we see three great gifts and blessings God gives to His children. These gifts empower them to serve Him. First, is His great indwelling presence. He said the Father and the Son will take up residence and abide in us. They live in us by the power of the Holy Spirit. Secondly, the Holy Spirit is our teacher. He teaches us the Word of God. We allow Him to teach us when we read our bibles. He teaches us all things concerning the things Jesus taught and all of God's truth. Thirdly, our Lord gives us His great peace. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to pour out His peace so that we would not be troubled or fearful.

Lord, thank You for living Your life in and through me. Thank You for teaching me Your word daily. Thank You for giving me Your great peace in my heart and life.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Eighteen

A TIME OF RENEWAL ~ SECTION 2

MARCH 19TH ~ MERLIN LIVERMAN

JOHN 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

Jesus gives a great illustration in this passage. His Father is the vine dresser or gardener; He is the vine, and His followers (us) are the branches. The goal of our Lord is that each of us, as branches, would live our lives and bear much fruit spiritually. God wants to build His church by using each of us. In order to do this, we must learn to abide in the vine. He brings spiritual fruit as we learn to grow in the scriptures and seek Him in prayer each day. Apart from Him, we can do nothing. Abiding in Jesus is seeking His Spirit to take control of our lives daily.

Lord, empower my life so that others will be blessed and drawn to You as they see and experience the love of Jesus in me.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Nineteen

A TIME OF RENEWAL ~ SECTION 2

MARCH 20TH ~ MERLIN LIVERMAN

JOHN 15:9-17

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another."

Our Lord Jesus shares great blessings in this passage. He tells us how to abide in His love. All of us want the fullness of His love! We abide in His love by doing all He tells us to do as He teaches us from His Word. We keep His commandments, and as a result, we are filled with His joy. He tells us how important it is to love each other as He loves us. Then He tells us that we are His friends. We are friends who are chosen to bear eternal fruit that will remain.

Lord Jesus, fill me daily with everything You are so that I might bear much fruit as You work through my life to use me. Thank You for Your joy and peace.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Twenty

A TIME OF RENEWAL ~ SECTION 2

MARCH 21ST ~ MERLIN LIVERMAN

JOHN 16:12-15

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

Jesus said that He has many more things to say to us. We receive many teachings as we stay faithful to the daily study of His word. The Holy Spirit is our teacher in all our times with God. He will guide you into all truth and reveal what is to come. But above all, He will glorify our Lord Jesus.

Lord, I want to present to You each day my total life for You to use to glorify Your name.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Twenty One

FOR THE CHURCH ~ SECTION 3

MARCH 22ND ~ TODD SUMMERFORD

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10; 2:1-5

"I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."

The church at Corinth experienced division on multiple levels. Paul urged them to "agree" and have "no divisions," but to be "united in the same mind and...judgment" (1:10). Certainly, this does not mean that they all agreed on every single item of consideration. Because the Body of Christ is made up of people with differing preferences, the opportunities to disagree are boundless.

Paul's concern, however, was not for the church to agree on the style of worship or the color of carpet (although those things certainly should never be divisive issues). Things of that nature are tertiary issues, if even that high on the scale. Yet churches throughout history have harmed their witness in their neighborhoods because of lines drawn and wars fought over trivial matters. How does the unity of the Body affect the effectiveness of its witness? Have you been a source of division in the Body over matters of preference? If so, ask the Lord to forgive you and to give you grace toward others in those matters. While there are many things that could divide us, we are all united in Christ Jesus. The primary purpose of Paul was to proclaim the excellencies of Jesus at all times and in all places. This, too, is the purpose of the Body of Christ.

Today as you pray, thank God for diversity in the Body of Christ, and ask Him to grant the Church a spirit of humility in matters of preference and an unswerving hold to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Twenty Two

FOR THE CHURCH ~ SECTION 3

MARCH 23RD ~ TODD SUMMERFORD

JOHN 10:1-18

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

We are often guarded in what we let other people know about us. We share the things on social media that we are comfortable with allowing our followers to know, all the while hiding the things that may cause us discomfort or embarrassment. Or maybe our effort is to prevent people from knowing things about us because we fear that their knowledge of those things may cause them to dislike us. In this passage, Jesus referred to Himself as the "good shepherd" (verse 14) who knows His sheep and is known by His sheep. Unlike your social media followers, who may only know those things about you that you feel casts you in the best light, Jesus knows everything about you. Yes, while He surely knows about all of those "good" things, He also is keenly aware of the sin present in your life. And yet...He loves you. What a tremendous truth! The church consists of people from all different backgrounds, and sometimes the things we know about those individuals may impact the way we interact with them. How should Jesus' perfect love and care toward us, in spite of His knowledge of us, change our attitudes in this regard?

Today as your pray, praise the Lord for the forgiveness you have received from Him. Praise His faithfulness to you despite any unfaithfulness in your life. Ask God to help you have compassion toward others just as the Good Shepherd is compassionate toward us.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Twenty Three

FOR THE CHURCH ~ SECTION 3

MARCH 24TH ~ TODD SUMMERFORD

MATTHEW 14:22-32

"Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased."

The landscape surrounding the Sea of Galilee created an environment in which violent storms could quickly appear. Jesus' disciples found themselves battered by the wind and waves. Jesus walked across the water to them, but they feared the sight was a ghost. Peter wanted to know for certain if it was, in fact, Jesus. Peter requested to be called out onto the water with Jesus. Jesus calls, and Peter goes. All is well while Peter has his eyes on Jesus, but the moment he looks away, overtaken by the magnitude of the storm, he begins sinking.

It's no question that the landscape of our world creates an environment in which various storms can quickly appear, wreaking havoc on our lives. While there are resources available to help us through those storms, we must be careful to never take our eyes off Jesus. He is the sustaining power for you, and He is the sustaining power for His Church. When storms appear in your life, where do you turn? Are you trusting more in what you can do on your own, or are you trusting in the power of Jesus?

As you pray today, praise the Lord for His faithful, perfect strength that He gives to you to weather life's storms. Pray for those you know who are in the midst of storms, and ask God to give you the opportunity to minister to them.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Twenty Four

FOR THE CHURCH ~ SECTION 3

MARCH 25TH ~ TODD SUMMERFORD

HEBREWS 12:1-3

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted."

Hebrews 11 is a collection of people who trusted God by faith, even through times of uncertainty (11:7-8; 17-18) and difficulty (11:36-38). The writer of Hebrews then encourages readers to consider this "cloud of witnesses" and cast off anything that might hinder a faithful running of the "race that is set before us" (12:1). The key to this endurance is the fixing of your eyes on Jesus. Nothing else will be sufficient to sustain you through the trials and temptations that are sure to come. What struggles are you experiencing right now that are causing you to be hindered in your walk with Jesus?

Jesus endured the cross (12:2) and hostility from people (12:3). The writer of Hebrews brings our focus to Jesus in order to prevent weariness or faintheartedness in us through trials, temptations, or hostilities. Because of the risk of being overwhelmed by those struggles, we must daily fix our eyes on the only One sufficient—Jesus Christ

In your prayers today, thank the Lord for the examples of faithfulness we find in the Bible. Thank Him for those He has placed in your life, and ask Him to sustain you through even the most difficult and trying moments of life.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Twenty Five

FOR THE CHURCH ~ SECTION 3

MARCH 26TH ~ TODD SUMMERFORD

JAMES 1:22

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

Hearing and doing are two completely different things. If the timer on the oven goes off, but I fail to obey it, then I have heard, but not done, and so ruined supper. Perhaps I have deceived myself into thinking that just by setting the timer I have sufficiently prepared a meal. To be clear, James' exhortation to be "doers of the word" is not to say that obedience to the Word is necessary to bring salvation. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. But orthodoxy (correct belief) and orthopraxy (correct action) go hand-in-hand.

The regular gathering of the Church for the purposes of worship through singing and the preaching of the Word of God is right and good. That practice is essentially "hearing." But we must be careful not to deceive ourselves into believing that the totality of the Christian life is to "hear." Instead, may God's Word move us with His compassion for others as the Holy Spirit works in us and leads us toward faithfulness. Will you commit to being a hearer who does, trusting in the work of the Holy Spirit in your life?

As you pray today, ask the Lord to move you into action as you remember the saving work He has accomplished in your life through the work of Jesus on the cross and through the grave, and ask Him to make Parkview Baptist Church a body of faithful believers seeking to honor Him in all things.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Twenty Six

FOR THE CHURCH ~ SECTION 3

MARCH 27TH ~ TODD SUMMERFORD

MATTHEW 5:14-16

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

The power of light is incredible. Even the faintest of lights is noticeable in darkness. In the first century setting, in which Jesus was preaching in this passage, the illustration of a lamp lighting a home would be clear. Because their homes were often single-roomed structures, a lamp lit in the center of the room and placed on a stand would provide necessary light to each and every corner. How foolish it would have been to have then covered the lamp!

The light of the gospel—the Good News that Jesus has made a way for us to be saved from our sins—is desperately needed in this dark world. How many times have we “covered” our lamp by our words or actions? May we not be a faint light, but a bright light for the gospel of Jesus to this city that so badly needs the gospel!

As you pray today, ask the Lord to give you boldness in your faith to shine the light of the gospel and to make Parkview Baptist Church a beacon of the hope of the gospel in Baton Rouge and beyond.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Twenty Seven

FOR THE CHURCH ~ SECTION 3

MARCH 28TH ~ TODD SUMMERFORD

LUKE 5:1-11

"On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him."

As Jesus began His ministry on the earth, we see Him approach two sets of brothers and call them to follow Him. For Simon (Peter) and Andrew, as well as James and John, their response is significant. After their most recent frustration of an expedition, the brothers probably were not very interested in casting their nets again. However, Simon agreed to do as Jesus had said. The result of their effort astounded them as two boats were filled with fish, even to the point of sinking. Upon arriving back to shore, Matthew and Mark tell us that the brothers "immediately" left everything to follow Jesus.

Jesus has called His people to fulfill the Great Commission. How have you responded to that calling? Have you begun in obedience? Or have you been delayed? May nothing prevent us from rapid, faithful obedience to King Jesus!

As you pray today, ask the Lord to lay aside those things that have caused you to be distracted from the call He has placed on your life.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Twenty Eight

FOR THE CHURCH ~ SECTION 3

MARCH 29TH ~ TODD SUMMERFORD

JOHN 6:1-14

"After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

There is no follower of Jesus who is insignificant to God! The little boy, who offered five loaves of bread and two fish, probably did not think much could come from the disciples taking his lunch. Maybe just a rumbling of his stomach when it came time to eat. The disciples certainly did not believe that his offering would be sufficient to meet the needs of the tremendous number of people. The disciples quickly discovered, however, that the work of Jesus is not dependent on the skills we have to offer.

This passage is first and foremost about the identity of Jesus as the Christ. He is the promised Messiah. We must not be mistaken. Our faithfulness to the Lord is not insignificant! How are you faithfully using your gifts and abilities to serve the Lord? How can you use them to serve Parkview Baptist Church? Just as the young boy gave the fullness of what he had to offer, may we be faithful in laying our lives before Jesus and saying, "Use me as You see fit, King Jesus!"

As you pray today, ask the Lord to help you identify ways that you can be faithful in serving Him and to use your faithful service to bring Him honor and glory.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Twenty Nine

FOR THE CHURCH ~ SECTION 3

MARCH 30TH ~ TODD SUMMERFORD

COLOSSIANS 4:2-6

"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person."

As Paul concludes his letter to the church in Colossae, he gives a sort of rapid-fire exhortation to those followers of Jesus (and to us today). First, we should continue steadfastly in prayer. The world is full of evil, and we are called to be faithful to King Jesus. Therefore, we must pray! Second, we should desire opportunities to share the gospel. We often shy away from those moments for various reasons, but Paul longed for the chance to speak the gospel while even in prison for, well, speaking the gospel. Third, we must ensure that we are walking wisely and making the most of every opportunity we have. We should want to bring honor and glory to Jesus at all times and in all ways. Finally (at least in this passage), we must be sure to allow God to speak through us as we seek to have gracious speech toward others.

Which of these exhortations from Paul cause you excitement? Do any of them cause you fear? If so, ask the Lord to reveal to you the reason for that emotion and give you the strength to overcome it.

As you pray today, ask the Lord to help you in walking wisely and give you the desire to honor Him in all things.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Thirty

FOR THE CHURCH ~ SECTION 3

MARCH 31ST ~ TODD SUMMERFORD

1 JOHN 1:5

"This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."

We understand the concept of an advocate—one who comes to the defense of another. John reminds his readers that sin is a reality in our lives. If we were to deny the presence of sin in our lives, we would be badly mistaken. One aspect of the beauty of the gospel is that we are freely forgiven by God because of the work of Jesus Christ! God is faithful to forgive when we confess, but, even more so than that, He is just to forgive. The One against whom we have sinned, who would be justified in condemning us, grants forgiveness because His Son took the consequences of our sins on Himself. At this moment, Christ Jesus is at the right hand of the Father, where He intercedes for us, and advocates for us, when we sin. He has satisfied the debt we owe, and Paul would add that the certificate of debt has been nailed to the cross (Colossians 2:14). What a magnificent truth!

Has sin in your life caused you to walk in guilt? Have you held on to your sin out of shame and regret? Confess your sin to God!

As you pray today, ask the Lord to help you recognize sin in your life and lead you to confession and repentance.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Thirty One

JESUS FOR THE LOST ~ SECTION 4

APRIL 1ST ~ LES JENSEN

ROMANS 3:23

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

Paul has concluded his case for the universal sinfulness of man and the rightful wrath of God against those who sin. For there is none who acknowledges and gives reverence to God for His creation and the ultimate blessing of fellowship which He offers. But Jesus, the Father's very own Son, lived a perfect sinless life and by faith in His death, burial, and resurrection, God offers to restore fellowship with Him.

Would you thank God for providing a pathway for you to hear and believe these truths? Would you ask Him how your life reflects these truths? Would you ask Him how you can help others to know the glories of a restored fellowship with God?

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Thirty Two

JESUS FOR THE LOST ~ SECTION 4

APRIL 2ND ~ LUIS RECINOS

ROMANS 6:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Paul addresses a key reality of sin, which is an eventual end in death. The story does not end there, however. As we approach God in repentance, we are graciously given salvation in Jesus. Through that salvation, we are lavished with abundant and eternal life with our Lord. As we dwell in this reality, let us remember those around us that have not accepted this gift. Pray that the lost may come to recognize the new and eternal life Jesus gives to those He saves. Pray for the hearts of the lost to be called toward repentance.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Thirty Three

JESUS FOR THE LOST ~ SECTION 4

APRIL 3RD ~ DR. DON MAYES

ROMANS 5:8

"but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Today's intentional prayer focus is to understand how deeply the Father loves each individual person. When we were in our most hopeless and undesirable state, guilty of sin, God sacrificed His Son as a covering for us. That covering is for you! The depths of His love are unsearchable. It provides tremendous security to the believer to know that God doesn't merely say He loves us, He demonstrated it in the most powerful way. Pray that you can rest in that knowledge and that others will be drawn to know Christ as their Savior.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Thirty Four

JESUS FOR THE LOST ~ SECTION 4

APRIL 4TH ~ ARNOLD AUSTIN

JOHN 4:35

"Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest."

Benjamin Franklin once said, "Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today." Yet we all do it. We procrastinate. When it comes to proclaiming the Gospel, often we don't act with the urgency that the Gospel merits. Our biggest obstacle is our fear. Yes, seeds of the Gospel fall on the path. On the rocky ground. Among the thorns. But the Lord reminds us here that there is good soil. Not just a garden, but white fields, ready to be harvested! Despite your fear, won't you pray today just as Elisha prayed for the King in 2 Kings 6:17, "Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see." And as God reveals the hill full of horses and chariots of fire around you, pray for courage to enter the fields and take part in the harvest.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Thirty Five

JESUS FOR THE LOST ~ SECTION 4

APRIL 5TH ~ TODD SUMMERFORD

MATHEW 28:18-20

"And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The Great Commission Jesus gave to all of His followers is bookended by His authority and His presence. As He begins speaking to the eleven disciples gathered there on the mountain, the instruction to make disciples is prefaced by the reality of His supreme authority over all things. Jesus concludes this call to make disciples with the reminder of His unending presence. Efforts to fulfill this Great Commission call in our own strength and wisdom would be foolish and ultimately unsuccessful. If we are to be faithful to Jesus, we must submit to His authority in all things, and rest in His presence at all times. How does the authority and presence of Jesus affect your life? What areas of your life need to be freshly surrendered to Jesus for His honor and glory?

As you pray today, ask the Lord to give you grace to submit to His authority over every area of your life, make you more aware of His presence and help you rest in Him, and give you a passion to be part of the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Thirty Six

JESUS FOR THE LOST ~ SECTION 4

APRIL 6TH ~ LUIS RECINOS

ROMANS 10:1

"Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved."

In this passage, Paul states the condition of his heart for his Jewish brethren. Brethren that continued to place their faith in the law instead of Jesus. While Paul could have belittled the Israelites for their unbelief, scripture reveals Paul's desire and prayer for those who are lost. As we approach the Lord in prayer today, focus on the words of Paul regarding his heart for the lost. Is our heart for the lost one that desires for them to know and have salvation through Jesus? Pray that our desire and heart for the lost would be for them to be saved.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Thirty Seven

JESUS FOR THE LOST ~ SECTION 4

APRIL 7TH ~ LES JENSEN

ROMANS 10:14,15

"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

While Paul is concluding his case against Israel's rejection of Jesus, he is also speaking to all believers today. He presents a series of questions that flow from effect to cause which culminate in verse 17 by naming "him" Jesus, the author, and finisher of the good news.

Would you thank God for Jesus who is the Good News? Would you thank God for His Word by which the good news comes to us and for those who brought it to you? Would you ask God how you might also do great things by bringing the good news to others?

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Thirty Eight

JESUS FOR THE LOST ~ SECTION 4

APRIL 8TH ~ DR. DON MAYES

MATTHEW 9:38

"therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Today's intentional prayer focus is to ask the Lord to send out workers into His harvest! This is both a humbling and sober thought. The verse says that it is "His" harvest. How many times has a child carelessly trampled over mom's flowers or the families newly growing garden plants? When that child grows older, they will more fully understand the work that goes into a garden and the joy of the harvest. It is amazing that our heavenly Father send us out to work in such an important harvest. How often do we trample those tender souls that His Spirit has been cultivating? Today's prayer is for our own hearts as well as the hearts of others, to be open to the work of His harvest. Pray that believers in our local church will understand how to use their unique gifts in the harvest.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Thirty Nine

JESUS FOR THE LOST ~ SECTION 4

APRIL 9TH ~ ARNOLD AUSTIN

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-5

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."

A wayward sheep. A misplaced coin. A reckless son. Luke 15 gives three parables demonstrating the importance of the lost being found. Each parable concludes with the expression of exceedingly great joy in heaven. But here Paul goes one step further. Not only is there joy in the harvest, but in the harvesters who, from the start and without ceasing, have labored faithfully with Him in proclaiming the Gospel to the lost. Jesus told His disciples in Matt 9:35, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." Pray today and ask the Father how He would use you to share the Gospel message. And, as He brings others to labor at your side, pray with a glad heart for them.

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

Day Forty

JESUS FOR THE LOST ~ SECTION 4

APRIL 10TH ~ DR. CHRIS DEGEORGE

LUKE 22:39-46

"And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

It is my hope that these 40 days of focused prayer have impacted your life in a tremendous way. There is no way to overemphasize the power that prayer has. Jesus engaged in prayer relentlessly. We see it characterized in His life. The scripture tells us that it was His custom to pray. In fact, in His most difficult moments during His time on earth, we see Him praying. One of the greatest examples is His time in the garden on the night He was betrayed by Judas. This moment led ultimately to His crucifixion and death giving way to the resurrection. In this scene we see Jesus feeling the anguish of what is to come. Where do we find Him? On his knees before God the Father. He asks for God's will to be done, and He submits himself to following it. Where do you go in your hardest moments? Prayer should be a focus for more than just 40 days of intentionality. Prayer should be a focus for our whole existence. We need it and we are impacted by it. Will you make it a practice in your life?

Prayer of Reflection on the focal verse:

Prayer of Repentance:

Prayers of Intercession:

Prayer for Needfulness:

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