

21 DAYS
PRAYER
+
21 DAYS
FASTING
21 DAYS



Dear Church On The Way,

As we start 2024 together, there is something powerful about coming together in unity.

Along with some prayer and worship gatherings, I am inviting you to personally join together in prayer for 21 days. In the Bible, the prophet Daniel had a pattern of spending a focused season before the Lord—including for 21 days—that included both prayer and self-denial, as he focused on trusting God (for instance, see Daniel 1:12 and 10:3).

The year 2024 for The Church On The Way is going to be a year where we are intensely focused on Jesus in our teaching. So, as we start the year, may I encourage you to read a short devotional each day, for 21 days, from the life of Jesus (and also from our PAUSE Bible Reading Plan-LINK). These brief devotions will lead us through what we call the SOAP method of Bible study.

S: Read the SCRIPTURE.

O: Make an OBSERVATION about what you just read.

A: APPLY that scripture to your current life situation.

P: Bring what you've learned to a personal point of PRAYER.

Included in each day's reading will be a call to a specific point of prayer that our whole church will join in on that day.

Our hope in engaging these 21 days at the beginning of the year is to set a foundation in each of our lives to continue to spend time in the Word of God and in Prayer all year long.

Tim Clark
lead pastor of vision and voice
The Church On The Way

DAY 1

January 8

Scripture

“When Jesus stepped ashore, He was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at His feet, shouting at the top of his voice, 'What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, don't torture me!' For Jesus had commanded the impure spirit to come out of the man.” (Luke 8:27-29)

Observation

After watching Jesus calm a storm on the sea (Luke 8:22-26), Jesus and His disciples encounter a man who is a metaphorical storm. He is possessed by demons and is so out of control of his own mind that he has been living naked in tombs, likely for years.

Application

Jesus puts right what we think is impossible. No one is too far gone or too broken for Jesus. This man was out of control, unable to save himself. He was literally living with the dead! But after encountering Jesus, he is set free and his mind is restored. May Jesus both deliver us from areas of brokenness that seem impossible and give us His eyes to see the restorative miracles He wants to do in others' lives as well!

Prayer

Take a minute and think through the places of your life that are physically, mentally, or spiritually storming, and ask the Lord to bring you His peace that surpasses all understanding.

DAY 2

January 9

Scripture

“He replied, ‘You give them something to eat.’ They answered, ‘We have only five loaves of bread and two fish— unless we go and buy food for all this crowd.’ ... Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, He gave thanks and broke them. Then He gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people.” (Luke 9:13, 16)

Observation

The disciples had recognized a need: it was getting dark, and the large crowd was getting hungry. Jesus calls them to meet that need, but they can’t see beyond what they could physically put their hands on to accomplish the task.

Application

This story applies to far more than food. Apart from Jesus, our gifts and talents can only go so far. Sometimes Jesus asks us to do things that can seem impossible with the resources, time, or talents we have. The disciples HAD food, but it wasn’t enough to feed all the people. In Jesus’ hands, what seemed meager was multiplied to such a degree that they collected leftover food. We need to be people who are willing to put whatever we have in His hands. Because in His hands, what to us can seem insufficient to the task at hand, can be multiplied far beyond what we could accomplish without Him.

Prayer

Ask the Lord to show you places in your life where you are trying to do it all with what you have, rather than giving it over to God and letting Him supernaturally multiply what can be done.

DAY 3

January 10

Scripture

“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.” (Luke 10:13)

Observation

Jesus has just commissioned seventy-two of His followers to be sent ahead of Him to heal people, to declare the Kingdom of God is near, and to pray for more people to come to know Him. In the middle of giving them instructions, He pauses to mourn for the cities that have rejected Him. The cities He names in verses 13-15 were cities full of God’s chosen people, in which He performed some of His greatest miracles. He is fully God, and arguably knew how His miracles would be received; He even says that if He’d performed the same miracles in a pagan city, they would have repented. But He still gave them the opportunity to see His miracles and repent.

Application

Jesus wants us to know that HE is the way to life. He is not unaffected when people reject Him. That is why He sent out His disciples, and that is why He calls us as believers to go into the world as well. He wants all to have the opportunity to know Him and be saved.

Prayer

Join us today, as we pray for our communities to encounter Jesus. Pray for the city of Los Angeles that we serve, and pray for the L.A. neighborhood or city you live in, as well. Pray that our communities would recognize Jesus, repent, and give their lives to Him!

DAY 4

January 11

Scripture

“He said to them, ‘When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be Your Name. Your Kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.’”
(Luke 11:2-4)

Observation

Jesus is teaching His disciples to invite God into everything, big and small.

Application

What does it mean when we ask the Lord’s Kingdom to come? Jesus’ Kingdom is the redemptive realm of God’s rule and reign, which includes the destruction of the evil that sin brings and the manifestation of His goodness, power, and glory. We have the opportunity (and responsibility), through prayer, to partner with Jesus in inviting His Kingdom to reign on the earth. The next parts of the prayer speak more specifically to the personal relationship He wants to have with us. He wants us to rely on Him for even our most basic needs, like food. He wants us to understand forgiveness and not let sin or unforgiveness of others strain our relationship with Him. He wants us to depend on Him and not fall into temptation.

Prayer

Today, let us pray the way Jesus taught us to. Let’s invite His Kingdom to reign on the earth and in our lives. Let’s acknowledge how much we depend on Him for our daily needs. Let’s ask Him to forgive us and show us areas where unforgiveness of others might be separating us from Him. Let’s ask Him to help us when we’re tested, so we don’t give into temptation and sin.

Scripture

“Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three.” (Luke 12:51-52)

Observation

Jesus is warning His disciples that following Him will not make them popular. Choosing Jesus may divide them from the people they love, even their own family. He’s preparing them to count the cost, and ultimately encouraging them to keep their hope in the eternal life they’ve found in Him.

Application

It can be hard to follow Jesus when the people we love most don’t know or follow Him. Although Jesus is preparing His disciples that choosing Him can be divisive, He is NOT promoting arguing or being intentionally combative. Hebrews 12:14-15 says, “Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.” We are called to be people who show God’s grace and bring peace, not people who are bitter or divisive ourselves!

Prayer

Today, let’s ask Jesus to help us be people who respond with grace and peace and to help us keep our eyes fixed on Him. Let’s pray for our families, that Jesus would bring restoration anywhere there has been brokenness or division. Let’s also pray for any loved ones who do not yet know Jesus.

DAY 6

January 13

Scripture

“When Jesus saw her, He called her over and said to her, ‘Woman, you are freed from your sickness.’” (Luke 13:12)

Observation

Jesus is in the middle of teaching in the synagogue, and yet He still notices a woman who has been afflicted for years and cannot straighten her back. A disabled woman is likely all but invisible to the synagogue official. But Jesus stops His teaching to call out to her and heal her.

Application

Jesus is our healer. He does not ignore our ailments or afflictions. Jesus wants to restore and bless His people! There’s a subtle irony in the following passages, as the synagogue official is frustrated that Jesus would “work” on the Sabbath by healing her, when the Sabbath is supposed to be a day of rest. But by healing her, Jesus gave the woman rest by freeing her from an 18-year-long problem.

Prayer

If you need restoration from sickness or pain, invite Jesus to heal those ailments. He cares for you, and He is kind! Also, take a moment to think of someone else who might need healing today and ask the Lord to touch and restore their body.

DAY 7

January 14

Scripture

“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.” (Luke 14:34-35)

Observation

In this chapter, Jesus has called out legalism in the Pharisees, given two parables to encourage humility and generosity, and exhorted people to count the cost before they follow Him. These two verses at the end are in essence the outcome if we don't do those things; we'd lose our “saltiness,” or usefulness, as a follower of Jesus.

Application

Jesus gives us a great picture of what it means to follow Him in this chapter.

As followers of Jesus, we should be distinct in this world, like the distinct flavor of salt.

We are to be humble. We are to be generous, and not just for our own benefit or standing. We must be willing to sacrifice for Jesus and put Him above all else. We also must avoid the trap of legalism; when we're so focused on the rules or on condemning others for failing, our witness as a follower of Jesus becomes useless. If we lose these qualities, we won't fulfill our purpose for His Kingdom.

Prayer

Ask the Lord to reveal any areas where you've lost your “saltiness.” Repent and ask Him to help you follow Him well. Also ask the Lord to help the Church at large to not become bland or lose its witness.

Scripture

“I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.” (Luke 15:7)

Observation

The religious leaders are grumbling at the beginning of Luke 15, because Jesus kept interacting with the social pariahs of the day; in this case, the tax collectors and “sinners.” Jesus uses three parables to try to show them the Father heart of God, that the lost would be saved.

Application

All of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. We are all saved by the mercy of Jesus. He goes after those who are lost, like the sheep in the first parable who wandered off. Maybe some unwise decisions have separated that person from Jesus. He goes after those who don't even know they're lost, like the coin in the second parable. The third parable gives us an example of someone who rebels against God. In this case, He waits for them to be humbled so that they'll turn and repent, but the celebration when they turn back to Him is like none other!

Prayer

Today, thank the Lord for His salvation and the gift you have of walking in relationship with Him, because He pursued you! Invite Him to use you as an instrument to lead others into relationship with Him.

Scripture

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” (Luke 16:13)

Observation

Jesus continues to teach on character, this time focusing on the love of money and on stewardship. The parable of the dishonest steward shows us what happens when we are trying to serve two masters. He was trying to serve himself while serving his master, and ultimately, he failed at both.

Application

Our attitude toward money can be a good barometer of where our hearts are when it comes to trusting God. We are to be stewards of our money and possessions, remembering that what we have is the Lord's. If we view money as a tool that we're entrusted with to serve the Lord, even if what we have seems insignificant, God will use that and multiply the impact. If we are responsible with what we have, no matter how small, we prove that we can be trusted with more.

Prayer

Ask the Lord to help you view your resources with His eyes and not your own. Ask Him to help you be a manager He can trust.

DAY 10

January 17

Scripture

“Jesus said to His disciples: ‘Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come, but woe to anyone through whom they come. It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to stumble.’”
(Luke 17:1-2)

Observation

Jesus is spending more time teaching His disciples how they are to live and warning them of things to avoid. He is getting closer to Jerusalem and ultimately the Cross. Luke 17 starts with a warning for them to be careful that their words and actions do not cause other people to sin or turn away from Jesus.

Application

How often are we flippant with our words and attitudes, not considering the impact they'll have on those around us? In our society today, there's a great emphasis on “speaking your truth.” We love our opinions, and we usually love to share them! But, as believers, we must pay attention to what our words say to others about Jesus, for their sake as much as our own. We won't do this perfectly; but the attitude of our hearts must be humble, willing to lay down our own feelings and agendas if they don't reflect Jesus.

Prayer

Today, ask Jesus to help your speech reflect Him to those around you. Ask Him to put a guard over your mouth, to check you if you're going to say something that would hurt someone's impression of Him. Also, take a moment to pray for leaders who proclaim to know Jesus, whether they are in the church, in politics, or have a larger audience. Ask the Lord to help them speak and act in a way that honors Him, and that won't distort people's view of Jesus.

DAY 11

January 18

Scripture

“But Jesus called the children to Him and said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.’” (Luke 18:16)

Observation

Jesus again demonstrates how He sees and values those who society often overlooks. Even His disciples thought Jesus must be too important to be bothered by kids, but Jesus rebukes His disciples. He uses the children as an example to reiterate the point He’s made several times to the disciples, that humility is vitally important for someone who is following Him.

Application

Throughout the last few chapters of Luke, Jesus has repeated the themes of not being proud and not being attached to worldly possessions. It’s hard to enter the Kingdom of God without being humble. Kids are naturally more humble than adults. They haven’t yet had the time to acquire and grow attached to possessions. It’s easier for them to accept and see the sovereignty and power of Jesus, because those things don’t get in the way! Not only does Jesus love children and say His kingdom is for them, but He also encourages us to learn from their example of how to approach Him.

Prayer

Today, let’s thank Jesus for the example He gives us through children of how to follow Him. Ask Him to help you have faith and humility like a child, as you follow Him. Also take some time to pray for the children in your own life, in our church, and in our city. Ask the Lord to protect their innocence and draw them near to Him. Ask Him to remove any hindrance that would stop them from coming to know and follow him.

DAY 12

January 19

Scripture

“But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, ‘Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.’” (Luke 19:8-10)

Observation

Jesus could have visited the house of a priest while in Jericho, which had become a prominent trade city during this time. The crowd expected Him to dine with someone “holy.” Instead, He chooses to lodge at the house of someone who was hated by the people because of his job, and very likely because some of his wealth came from corruption. But his heart to see and know about Jesus was sincere and pure.

Application

Jesus sees our heart, and cares about all the motives within. All Jesus did was notice Zacchaeus, and it was enough for him to want to give away half of his wealth and repay with interest anyone he’d defrauded. That’s quite a contrast to the entitled and easily offended attitude of the religious leaders we’ve seen throughout Luke. Are our hearts as easily changed when we encounter Jesus?

Prayer

Let’s join together today and ask Jesus to examine our hearts and expose any areas that have become calloused. Let’s ask Him to give us an eager heart, like Zacchaeus. Let’s pray this Psalm: “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me... Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.” (Psalm 51:10, 12)

DAY 13

January 20

Scripture

“Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my son, whom I love; perhaps they will respect him.’ But when the tenants saw him, they talked the matter over. ‘This is the heir,’ they said. ‘Let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.” (Luke 20:13-15)

Observation: The chief priests tried to question Jesus’ authority, and although He doesn’t answer them on their terms, He does answer them in this parable predicting His death. He’s days away from crucifixion when He gives this picture of the vine-growers.

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Application

Application: God’s heart for His people Israel is so evident in this parable. He shepherded them for centuries, using prophets to speak to them, and yet, some continued to reject Him. Finally, He sent His Son—the Messiah—whose message and ministry was rejected by many. It must have been heartbreaking for Jesus, both to know He’s so close to the Cross and to see many of the people He’s tried the hardest to reach still won’t accept Him as the Son of God.

Prayer

Today, let’s pray for Israel. Pray for peace on their land, and pray their hearts might yet be softened to know Jesus. Let’s also pray for our own nation, that we wouldn’t have hardened hearts that can’t see the Lord, even when His blessing or His correction is right in front of us.

DAY 14

January 21

Scripture

“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap.” (Luke 21:34)

Observation

Jesus will return one day, but we are not to be overwhelmed with the anxiety of trying to anticipate if this disaster, or that war, or some phenomenon in the sky is THE sign that He's coming back. We should guard our hearts from fear and worry, and instead, be faithful to pray.

Application

If you open your news app today, you'll probably see half a dozen tragic events, natural disasters, or some other chaos-inducing news. You could easily find a few events that sound like they might be an end-times prophecy being fulfilled. Especially in the age we're in, where news is so easily accessible, it is extremely easy to be weighed down with worry. Our world is broken, and that's why we needed a Savior! Jesus wants us to pray, but to not allow ourselves to become so burdened with fear that we miss out on doing any good while we're here.

Prayer

If there are places you know you're weighed down with worry, take a moment and surrender them to Jesus. Ask Him to carry the worry and pray for His power in whatever the situation may be. Then, take some time to pray for our world! Invite God's purpose and peace into our world.

DAY 15

January 22

Scripture

“But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.’ And they all said, ‘So You are the Son of God?’ And He said to them, ‘You say correctly that I am.’” (Luke 22:69-70)

Observation

Jesus was, and is, the Son of God.

Application

Jesus wasn't just a good man, a wise teacher, a prophet, or some sort of spiritual guru. He was the one and only Son of God, fully God and fully man. No one has the power to save like Jesus. He is the only perfect sacrifice, our Redeemer, and our Savior.

Prayer

Today, take some time to thank Jesus for the sacrifice He made specifically for you. He was willing to die because of His love for you. Reflect on that today.

DAY 16

January 23

Scripture

“When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Him there, along with the criminals—one on His right, the other on His left. Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.’ And they divided up His clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at Him. They said, ‘He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.’” (Luke 23:33-35)

Observation

Even in the midst of the hardest, most excruciating death, Jesus still sought to forgive people. He so easily could have taken Himself off that Cross and said enough was enough, but instead, He stayed and took upon Himself what was meant for us. People stood there questioning if He was the Messiah and saying He should save Himself, but Jesus made it clear, yet again, that He was the Messiah by choosing to stay on the Cross.

Application

Jesus was fully God and fully man, and He knew, even then on the Cross, that some of us would believe and follow Him and some would not. Even still, He came and He died, and He rose again for us. We don’t have to be separated from God anymore, because of the perfect sacrifice of Jesus.

Prayer

Today, pray for someone in your life that needs to come to the realization of what the Lord did for them and take a moment to pray the Lord would refresh the importance of His sacrifice in your life.

DAY 17

January 24

Scripture

“He told them, ‘This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in His Name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’” (Luke 24:46-49)

Observation

Jesus connects all the pieces for His disciples, from prophecies in the Old Testament to what they heard from Him directly while they walked with Him. Jesus came so that our sins could be forgiven, and now it’s up to them (and us) to share His message with the world.

Application

Jesus gives us purpose. He redeemed our lives and resurrected us from the death we would experience if we stayed trapped by our sins. He did the hard work, and now it’s our job to share that Good News with anyone who will hear it. He even equips us with the Holy Spirit so that we don’t have to do that on our own. He leads us and empowers us by His Spirit.

Prayer

Pray for an opportunity to share the love of Jesus with someone today. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you and give you the right timing and wording to do so.

DAY 18

January 25

Scripture

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on His law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.” (Psalm 1:1-3)

Observation

The Scripture says those who delight and meditate on the law of the Lord are like a tree planted by streams of water. Some translations say, “streams of Living Water,” because the Lord is and should be the source of our life.

Application

Spending time, daily, in the Word of God is how we can know His voice, hear what He says, and learn how to follow Him. Meditating on the Word of God and truly internalizing it in our lives can be a powerful way to grow deeper in our walk with Christ.

Prayer

Pray for the Lord to meet you as you meditate on Him. As you have been reading the Word daily, through the last 25 days, and developing the rhythm of being in His presence, ask Him to speak to you in a new way.

DAY 19

January 26

Scripture

“But you, Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high. I call out to the Lord, and He answers me from His holy mountain. I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the Lord sustains me. I will not fear though tens of thousands assail me on every side.”
(Psalm 3:3-6)

Observation

Even as King David was fleeing, he knew the Lord was his protector in his times of trouble.

Application

The Lord had shown David time and time again that He was faithful to protect him, and the Bible says in Hebrews 13:8, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” So, if the same God that protected King David has never changed and never will, we have access to that same protection today.

Prayer

Take a moment to pray and thank the Lord for places He has protected and sustained you. It is easy for us to not pay attention to little moments, but God does not care about the size of a moment and stands there with us through it all.

DAY 20

January 27

Scripture

“In the morning, Lord, You hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before You and wait expectantly. For You are not a God who is pleased with wickedness; with You, evil people are not welcome. The arrogant cannot stand in Your presence. You hate all who do wrong; You destroy those who tell lies. The bloodthirsty and deceitful You, Lord, detest. But I, by Your great love, can come into Your house; in reverence I bow down toward Your holy temple.”
(Psalm 5:3-7)

Observation

None of us are worthy of what Jesus did, is doing, and will do for us, and He still listens to us. Furthermore, He came and died and rose again so that we may spend eternity with Him, starting right now. Not just praying prayers or asking Him for things from afar, but literally in His presence.

Application

Regardless of our pasts, the Lord says, “Come,” because of His great love for us. The weight of our sins is removed and washed clean, and we are able to stand before the Lord as His sons and daughters that are called by His Name.

Prayer

Take a moment and pray the Lord would continue to help us grow deeper in our walk with Him. Ask the Lord to show you a place where He would want us to press in further with Him.

DAY 21

January 28

Scripture

I am worn out from my groaning. All night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears. My eyes grow weak with sorrow; they fail because of all my foes. Away from me, all you who do evil, for the Lord has heard my weeping. The Lord has heard my cry for mercy; the Lord accepts my prayer." (Psalm 6:6-9, NIV)

Observation

The Bible is not filled with perfect people who have it all together. The Bible is filled with the same broken humans who have been redeemed by God's grace that you would find in church on a Sunday. God does not reserve His listening for those who are unblemished. Jesus died for the imperfect, which is to say, all of us.

Application

God is not afraid of mess. He is not shocked by our reactions to things. He is not surprised if we have to sit there and have a good cry some days. He is all-seeing and all-knowing, and He still chose to love us and use us. You do not have to be perfect to be used by God.

Prayer

Take a moment to pray and thank God for using us in our mess and that He did not ask us to be perfect. There may also be things on your heart right now that make you feel like David did in that Psalm. Take a couple moments to give that over to the lord and ask Him to step in and bring you peace.