

30 Days of Prayer 2020
Walking with Jesus - Reflections from the Gospel of Matthew

Week 1: Pray for Yourself & Your Family

Wednesday - January 1: Matthew 1

- *Reflection: Jesus comes from a long line of family history. This lineage was God's plan from the beginning. The plan of Salvation was for Jesus to come and rescue his people from sin.*
- *Prayer: Pray that the people of God would know Jesus has come to save us from our sin. Pray that your family may resemble a generation of faith in Christ.*

Thursday - January 2: Matthew 2

- *The Lord provided a sign through a star, but the people also obeyed God's warning from Herod. Joseph obeyed God's plan even when it costs him his comfort, time and resources.*
- *Prayer: Pray for faith and action in God's calling. Pray that your family may follow Jesus at any cost.*

Friday - January 3: Matthew 3

- *Reflection: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Repentance is turning from our own passions, desires, and selfishness and responding to the kindness of God's love and provision.*
- *Prayer: Pray that we would be willing to repent of our sinfulness on a daily basis. Pray that your family will be willing to forgive and ask for forgiveness toward each other as Christ forgave us.*

Saturday - January 4: Matthew 4

- *Reflection: Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness for 40 days. We learn how Jesus trusted in God's Word in times of weakness.*
- *Prayer: Pray that God will help us through our temptations by His promises and His Word. Pray that your family would depend on Jesus through times of weakness and temptation.*

Sunday - January 5: Matthew 5:1-20

- *Reflection: The Sermon on the Mount is the renewal of God's Kingdom ethic. A follower of Jesus must be humble and dependent on the Holy Spirit to be the people God calls us to be.*
- *Prayer: Pray that you will be transformed by the Gospel to see that only Jesus can empower us to become the people God designed us to be. Pray that your family would be salt and light in this world.*

Week 2: Pray for Neighbors, Church, and Coworkers

Monday - January 6: Matthew 5:21-48

- *Reflection: God changes our relationship with Him, therefore there's a change of relationships with others around us.*
- *Prayer: Pray for true spiritual, character change from our lusts, anger, and integrity. Pray that we would see our neighbors, church and coworkers through the eyes of Jesus.*

Tuesday - January 7: Matthew 6

- *Reflection: Jesus challenges his people to devote to prayer, giving, fasting and our treasures. Christ addresses our lack of trust and anxieties by shifting our priorities to the Kingdom of God.*
- *Prayer: Pray that you would trust in the true treasure we have in Christ and His Kingdom. Pray for others' anxieties and worries to be changed into trust and confidence that Jesus meets our every need.*

Wednesday - January 8: Matthew 7

- *Reflection: Judgmentalism is a problem in our hearts. It stems from our personal pride and disregard for others beneath us. Jesus confronts our judgments by comparing us to God's perfect standard.*
- *Prayer: Pray that we would have a sober judgment of ourselves before others. Pray that our relationships would focus on humility, understanding and mercy.*

Thursday - January 9: Matthew 8

- *Reflection: Jesus gave his life to minister and serve others in their specific needs and conditions. The miraculous power of Jesus demonstrates his compassion to everyone.*
- *Prayer: Pray that we would be indiscriminate in our compassion toward our neighbors and community. Pray for a greater trust and a bigger heart to follow Jesus.*

Friday - January 10: Matthew 9

- *Reflection: We read about the extent people will go to follow Jesus. Jesus heals a paralytic because his friends brought him without reservation. Matthew leaves his job to be in the presence of Christ.*
- *Prayer: Pray for a desperate heart to follow Christ without reservation. Pray that you would have the zeal and compassion to bring others to a Savior.*

Saturday - January 11: Matthew 10

- *Reflection: Jesus calls for obedience in all of our lives. He instructs his people that following in His footsteps will entail some difficult times. But at the end of the day, we fear God rather than people.*
- *Prayer: Pray that God's people would recognize we have nothing to fear. Pray for protection as we enter 'away territory' as we follow God in our areas of mission.*

Sunday - January 12: Matthew 11

- *Reflection: John the Baptist was a holy martyr for believing in Jesus. The unfortunate consequence is a testament of his faithfulness to the very end. All disciples must be prepared for every situation and circumstance that comes with following Jesus.*
- *Prayer: Pray honestly about our doubts and concerns for following Jesus. Pray that we would be a church that will trust in God's Word and not our fears and feelings.*

Week 3: Pray for Your City and Nation

Monday - January 13: Matthew 12

- *Reflection: Jesus was interrogated by his opposition. The Pharisees were concerned about law abiding behavior, Jesus instead, was focused on the motives of the heart.*
- *Prayer: Pray for a greater intimacy of God that changes our heart before our behavior. Pray that our city would see spiritual transformation one believer at a time.*

Tuesday - January 14: Matthew 13

- *Reflection: Parables were ways that Jesus illustrates the power of the Kingdom of God. Jesus works through small, humble means, in order to make an exponential impact.*
- *Prayer: Pray that we would see God's work with eyes of faith. Pray that God's Word and God's people would bear spiritual fruit in a barren land.*

Wednesday - January 15: Matthew 14

- *Reflection: Jesus calls us to believe. Whether if it was John the Baptist in prison, or Peter lost in the waters, Jesus tells us to keep our eyes on him despite the consequences. Jesus is willing to rescue us even in our doubts.*
- *Prayer: Pray knowing that discipleship can be messy, imperfect, and filled with doubts. Pray our fears will be quelled when we focus on our Savior.*

Thursday - January 16: Matthew 15

- *Reflection: God desires mercy not sacrifice. Meaning, Jesus calls out "traditional" law followers rather than genuine loving Christ believers. That's the difference between the Canaanite woman and the Pharisees. One truly loved God, and the others were truly pretenders.*
- *Prayer: Pray that your heart would be fully surrendered to the Lord in order to bring intimacy with God. Pray that your growing communion with God will reflect to others.*

Friday - January 17: Matthew 16

- *Reflection: Pharisees and Sadducees demand signs from Jesus as proof. Jesus exposes the reality that even seeing miracles cannot break through a deliberate hardened heart.*
- *Prayer: Pray against our self-inflicted darkened hearts. Pray that our city and nation may be exposed to the light and truth of God despite our ignorance towards him.*

Saturday - January 18: Matthew 17

- *Reflection: Jesus not only tests the hearts of his oppressors, but also tests his followers and disciples. Peter, James and John saw the Transfiguration of God, and yet their understanding of Jesus was incomplete. Our faith can be small, but our dependency of Christ must grow everyday.*
- *Prayer: Pray that we will never cease to grow in our understanding, trust and dependency on Jesus. Pray that we would continually seek opportunities to be witnesses to the city.*

Sunday - January 19: Matthew 18

- *Reflection: Reconciliation is offered to everyone. Jesus warns us to be attractive to everyone and not to allow anyone else to stumble. God commissions us to be ambassadors of forgiveness and mercy.*
- *Prayer: Pray that we would be ambassadors of reconciliation and mercy to those who are hard to forgive. Pray for healing in our world that needs redemption and reconciliation through the Gospel.*

Week 4: Pray for The World and the Global Church

Monday - January 20: Matthew 19

- *Reflection: God's standard is always right, good, and perfect. Therefore, He takes marriage and divorce seriously. Also, following God will come at many costs that sever us from our wants, desires and treasures. Even when we forsake the world, Jesus never holds back from what is best for us.*
- *Prayer: Pray for your marriage. Pray for those who are divorced. Pray for those who are challenged to give up riches, possessions, and status, because we have Jesus in our lives.*

Tuesday - January 21: Matthew 20

- *Reflection: God celebrates anyone who is rescued from the perils of their own sin. Therefore, there's no room for personal glory, or survivor's regret, Jesus reminds us grace is the greatest equalizer.*
- *Prayer: Pray that we would see each other in eyes of grace and gratitude. Pray that all believers in the world are appreciated for their unique gifts that serve in all corners of the earth.*

Wednesday - January 22: Matthew 21

- *Reflection: Jesus prepares for his own death as he enters Jerusalem. He enters with worship, but with false expectation. Jesus clears out the temple to demonstrate the overturning of what's become defiled in order to become pure and true.*
- *Prayer: Pray that Jesus would overturn the furniture of your hearts to be present in your life. Pray for Jesus to upend the values of this world with a paradoxical Gospel of Love.*

Thursday - January 23: Matthew 22

- *Reflection: Jesus is in charge of all things, both in heaven and on earth. His authority is summarized by Loving God and Loving Neighbor. Discipleship is obeying Jesus' command everywhere we go to anyone we meet.*
- *Prayer: Pray that Jesus' authority will rule our hearts and lives. Pray that our world would know to Love God & Love Neighbor as Jesus said.*

Friday - January 24: Matthew 23

- *Reflection: When Jesus calls out fake followers, he wants to reveal our sinful hearts ultimately so that we would be healed. The Pharisees chase their own glory, rather than the Glory of God. To follow Jesus is to watch our desires of reputation, fame and honor of men, and to remain humble before our God.*
- *Prayer: Pray that we would die to ourselves in order to follow Christ today. Pray we would be Christlike servants to all those who need love, compassion and need.*

Saturday - January 25: Matthew 24

- *Reflection: Jesus desires to be in communion with God. And to be in communion with the Father, is to do His will even when it's painful. Jesus Christ is the High Priest who intercedes for His people and trusts God will come to rescue all His children.*
- *Prayer: Pray that we would pursue our communion with Him passionately. Pray for thanks that God does not abandon His children but will come back again.*

Sunday - January 26: Matthew 25

- *Reflection: Are you ready when Jesus comes back? As Jesus prepares for his death, he tells his disciples to be ready when the Day comes again. Time is short to proclaim the Good News to those who are perishing. Yet, disciples are called to give their life and their all towards others.*

- *Prayer: Pray that the church would be more ready and willing to pour out grace and our resources before God comes again. Pray against a stingy heart and understand, “to live more, to give more.”*

Week 5: Pray for The Awaiting & Arrival of Christ’s Kingdom

Monday - January 27: Matthew 26

- *Reflection: The final day of Jesus’ earthly ministry has arrived. The plan that was set out against Christ was all permitted and fulfilled in God’s plan. The disciples cowered, denied and doubted the plan of God; only to realize, in the end it was all for love and salvation.*
- *Prayer: Pray that even in our hopelessness in God’s supposed plan, we would see the loving purposes in the bigger picture. Pray that the world would see the loving forgiveness offered in the willing sacrifice of Jesus.*

Tuesday - January 28: Matthew 27

- *Reflection: The crucifixion narrative continues, but focuses on certain people who are involved. Judas, darkened by his greed, self-destructs. Pilate, fears the demands of the crowd even when he sees no wrong in Jesus. And Barabbas, the guilty murderer was released in replace of an innocent man. The trial, turned upside down by men, was turned right when Jesus submits to the will of God on our behalf.*
- *Prayer: Pray that the betrayers, the deniers, the slanderers, and the murderers will know that forgiveness is possible through the death of an innocent savior. Pray that God’s love overcomes our fear, hatred, and betrayal throughout the world.*

Wednesday - January 29: Matthew 28:1-10

- *Reflection: What happens when Jesus’ death is all said and done? His followers were in the dark for 3 days not knowing what really happened. Yet, Jesus never left his followers in their despair, but returned to prove His Lordship over death.*
- *Prayer: Pray that in your darkest moments, you would be comforted by Jesus’ plan and presence. Pray that we would understand that death never has the last word, but the Living God and his Word.*

Thursday – January 30: Matthew 28:11-20

- *Reflection: The Great Commission is given to His church to make disciples of all nations. All authority is given to Jesus. Therefore, as followers of Christ, we are to lead by His example throughout the world.*
- *Prayer: Pray that we would follow our daily commission of Christ, to share without fear, and lead others to truly follow Him. Pray that Jesus’ authority would be our peace and motivation.*

Friday – January 31: Matthew Review.

- *Reflection: You walked with Jesus in the last 30 days through the Gospel of Matthew. Trace back and see how much you’ve learned about your savior, how God has answered your prayers, and to continue to learn and grow with Jesus in 2020.*
- *Prayers: Pray that you will continue your growth, commitment and calling as a follower of Jesus.*