



Week 3 **April 15-21 "Prayer"**

Sunday

Acts 1:14, 2:42

This week we are focusing on prayer. We will pray Jesus' prayers with him.

I pray we devote ourselves to being with Jesus through prayer.

Pastor Keith

God, of your goodness give me yourself; for you are sufficient for me. I cannot properly ask anything less to be worthy of you. If I were to ask less, I should always be in want. In you alone do I have all. Amen. Juliana of Norwich, England, 15th century.

Monday

Mark 6:30-32

Jesus had just been rejected by his family friends and those he grew up with. He received news that his cousin, John the Baptist, was murdered. He was tired and needed to grieve. His disciples excitedly returned from one of their first mission trips and were eager to share the wonderful miracles they were a part of. Everything was so busy they didn't even seem to have time to eat or pray. Jesus invited his disciples to join him at a quiet place.

The crowds caught up with them. Tired, grieving and hungry, Jesus and his disciples taught, fed and took care of the crowds. Jesus saw the soul-hunger of the people and fed their bodies, souls and spirits.

How is it with your soul?

Accept Jesus' invitation to come to a quiet place with him and rest with him for a while.

Schedule a time and place to meet with Jesus, perhaps sharing these devotions, and asking for and then waiting in his presence. Simply be.

Prayer: Jesus my Friend, thank you for inviting me to be with you all the time. Amen.

Tuesday

Matthew 6:7-15

Begin by reading Jesus' prayer (verses 9-13) aloud. Consider the discipleship practices included in this prayer: worship, trust, provision, forgiveness, deliverance, protection and relationships. Read it again, pausing to pray each phrase as if your own.

Ask God to help you with all these areas of discipleship.

Today, pray that Jesus strengthens and uses both your weaker and stronger discipleship traits. Offer all of them to Jesus for his use.

Prayer: Thank you Jesus for showing me the breadth and depth of prayer and our relationship. Amen.

Wednesday

John 17:1-5

This is the first of the three-part prayer we will look at this week. This is one of Jesus' last prayers recorded for us. Notice that Jesus is praying first for himself. It is okay for you to pray for yourself.

Here are a couple of points I see: Pray that Jesus Christ is glorified in your life, ask to know Jesus and the Father, and offer to do the work God has given you. What other points do you see?

Seeing how Jesus prays for himself, how would you pray for yourself? What if it were your last prayer on earth?

Prayer: Jesus, thank you for inviting me to pray for my needs. Help me in my need to glorify you, know you and follow you always. Amen.

Thursday

John 17:6-19

Jesus prays for his disciples. The prayer is for those who were his followers at that time. Many parts of the prayer would be much the same for disciples today.

Prayer: Pray Jesus' prayer found at John 17:6-19 substituting names of fellow disciples. Pray for followers of Jesus by name. Then pray Jesus' prayer for St Mark's, The United Methodist Church and Jesus' Global Church. Amen.

Friday

John 17:20-26

This is the third of Jesus' three-part intercessory prayer. Who is he praying for?

Pray for those who are not yet Jesus' followers but who will come to know Jesus through our witness.

Pray by name for those the Holy Spirit places on your heart.

Prayer: Jesus, you prayed for me! Thank you! I pray for those who do not yet know you. Help them be open to you and to find in me a true friend who will help them know you. Amen.

Saturday

Write a prayer. Perhaps follow the pattern Jesus prayed in John 17: yourself, Jesus' followers, and those yet to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Note how and what Jesus prayed for each group. Pray similarly.

Keep your prayer. Pray it again in the days to come.

Give prayer time today interceding for our times of worship and study tomorrow.