

2024 Easter Week Prayer Guide

Sunday, March 24: Matthew 20.29 - 21.11

- The 2 blind men in Matthew 20.39-34 “saw” Jesus for who he was. Where do you need to see Jesus more clearly?
- These 2 men then followed Jesus. What must it have been like to go with Jesus during the final week of his life?
- Where in your life do you need to step out of the crowd, and follow him?

Monday, March 26: Matthew 21.33-46

- Praise: Lord, I praise you for who you are. Holy, loving, all knowing, and perfect in every way.
- Action: Present to me opportunities to show my love for you and bring others to the joy that I have in you.
- Thanks: Father, I am grateful for the fulfillment of your plan in sending your son Jesus so we can share his inheritance of eternal life with you.

Tuesday, March 26: Mark 11.1-18

- As Jesus rides into Jerusalem, imagine what he was thinking about, and what was at stake and the price he would pay as our sacrifice. Jesus still did what was expected of him, providing the one and only sacrifice that would give all humanity the hope to be closer to God. Can you see and value his sacrifice?
- As Jesus enters Jerusalem the crowd’s hope is that he will bring God's victory. It will just be different than they expect. Where do you need to experience Jesus' victory?
- God has always tried to bring us closer to him, but we always fall short. Since the beginning of time, God’s people have made constant animal sacrifices to ask for forgiveness and grace from God, but God knew, Jesus would have to walk (or ride) willingly to be the last sacrifice that would end all sacrifices. How would you honor his sacrifice today?

Wednesday, March 27: Matthew 22.15-22

- Consider all the so-called ‘gods’ and ‘lords’ that vie for our attention and trust. Take a few moments to ask God to open your eyes to the false gods that have a pull on your heart.
- Have you “given Caesar” more than his due - either by placing too much trust in what those in power can do, or by not living faithfully as a follower of Jesus in the public sphere? How can you fill your mind with the ways of Jesus, rather than the ways of Caesar?
- Ask God to help you love him with all your heart, mind, strength, and person - and to then know how to love your neighbor (and enemy) as yourself.

Thursday, March 28: Matthew 26.36-46

- How often do we pray for God to take our cup but do not get the answer we want? Do we give thought to why his answer is no?
- Did the disciples feel regret for falling asleep instead of staying awake with and for Jesus? Even when we know what our spirit needs, what do we do when we allow our weak bodies to succumb to temptation?
- How can you “keep watch” with Jesus as he prepares for death?

Friday, March 29: Philippians 2.5-11

- Consider your relationships with other people. Ask God to help you have the same mindset as Jesus.
- Jesus humbled himself for you. Consider how you can humble yourself before others as we serve them.
- Consider that Jesus was obedient unto death, even the cross. Lord help me to be obedient as Christ is.
- As Jesus humbled himself thru obedience God exalted him to the highest place. Lord, help me to remember the words of Peter as he followed in Jesus' footsteps: "Humble yourselves therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you..." (1 Peter 5:6-7).

Saturday, March 30: Matthew 27.55-66

- As Jesus' body is put in the tomb, spend a moment at the tomb with the women. Imagine their grief, their shock. What must it have been like on that first Saturday before Easter, when they had no idea what Sunday held?
- Before getting to Resurrection Day, spend some time today reflecting on what it must have been like to have been with the women, with Joseph of Arimathea, with the scattered disciples, as they truly believed that all hope was gone.

Sunday, March 31: Matthew 28.1-10

- He's alive! Celebrate the victory we have through Jesus.
- The angel and Jesus both tell the women: *Don't be afraid*. What fears of yours do you need to bring before the resurrected Jesus?