

Awakening

21 Days of Prayer and Fasting



Day One

Scripture: John 18 & 19

Thanksgiving and Worship:

All throughout today's reading we see that Jesus was calm, completely focused, and his heart was surrendered to the path ahead of him. Praise God today that even when his plans are so far beyond our understanding, he is in complete control, working everything for our ultimate, eternal good. He is the all-knowing Father and we can trust Him even in the hard times.

Personal Prayer Focus:

We need the Holy Spirit's revelation of the battles that we should be fighting. So often we can be mistaken and find ourselves in a battle that we were never called to fight. Just as Peter reacted in the garden when Jesus was arrested, we can find ourselves lashing out, attacking on the wrong front.

John 18:10-11 "Then Simon Peter drew a sword and slashed off the right ear of Malchus, the high priest's slave. But Jesus said to Peter 'Put your sword back into its sheath. Shall I not drink from the cup of suffering the Father has given me?'"

In the scripture today, there are a lot of parallels to the current times we are living in. There was turmoil, betrayal, mob like behavior all around Jesus. Pilate did not want to crucify Jesus, but he knew there would be a revolt by the religious leaders and all the people that they led if he did not give them what they wanted. So Pilate gave in to their demands. **All the while, Jesus was fighting the battle that He was born to fight.** To the world, it looked like he was losing, that his ministry was being snuffed out. But Jesus was fighting the ultimate battle. Not a political battle, not a human battle, but a spiritual battle that would cost Him his life as he brought **spiritual life** to a **dead world**. We too are called to this battle. We desperately need God to show us where our battle grounds are. We can so easily be caught up in the human battle and neglect the ultimate battle.

Pray for eyes to see, ears to hear and discernment as you engage in the struggles we are facing in our time.

ALL CHURCH Prayer Focus:

A hunger for the truth.

John 18:37 "Jesus responded 'You say I am a King. Actually, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true.'"

Day Two

Scripture: John 20 & 21

Thanksgiving and Worship:

John 21:25 “Jesus also did many other things. If they were all written down, I suppose the whole world could not contain the books that would be written.”

We serve a God who can do ‘immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine, **according to his power that is at work within us...**’ **Ephesians 3:20**. Lets praise God for the way His power works inside of us to do amazing things in the world around us. Praise Him for his works, praise him for the ways that he is still healing and drawing hearts to himself.

Personal Prayer Focus:

John 21:21-22 “Peter asked Jesus, ‘What about him, Lord?’ Jesus replied ‘If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me.’” How easy is it for us to get distracted by others around us? Maybe we are distracted by what they have or by the calling that God has on their life. Today, ask God to help fix your focus on the path and purpose he has for you, and then actively celebrate others’ lives no matter how different their path may be.

ALL CHURCH Prayer Focus:

John 21:10b “There were 153 large fish, and yet the net hadn’t torn.”

Jesus told them where to cast their nets, and then he provided a huge catch of fish. When we are obedient, then he responds, but he not only responds with a huge harvest, he also gives us the strength needed to handle the harvest (*the net hadn’t torn).

As a church, let’s pray for each other and for our church as a whole to be obedient to His promptings and Word, and then let’s trust him to do something significant with our obedience.

Day Three

Scripture: Acts 1 - 3

Thanksgiving and Worship:

Acts 2:42 – 47 “⁴²All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer. ⁴³A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity ⁴⁷all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.”

This picture of the first church is so beautiful. Let’s praise God for the church family that we have, and that he has called each of us to be the ones who take this Good News to the world.

Personal Prayer Focus:

As you look at the picture of the first church and see how devoted they were to each other, ask the Lord if there is anything that He wants you to do in our church family. God has given each of us unique gifts, strengths and talents. As we use these for someone else’s good, we will continue to experience this divine community that was initiated 2000 years ago.

ALL CHURCH Prayer Focus:

Pray for our KidVenture children (0 - 11). Pray for the Holy Spirit to protect them from all of the ways that the enemy is trying to come against their childhood and innocence. Pray that each child would have a true encounter with Jesus and would rise up as leaders in their circle of friends. Pray for Emily, Nilda, and all of the KidVenture leaders as they teach and disciple our kids every Sunday.

Day Four

Scripture Acts 4 – 6

Thanksgiving & Worship:

After reading today's scripture, I am in awe of the boldness and change in all of the disciples after Jesus' resurrection and ascension into Heaven. They were scared and scattered when Jesus was arrested, but when they saw the risen Lord and then were filled with the Holy Spirit, their lives were marked by boldness and complete dedication to spreading the message of the Risen Savior. Let's praise God for the heroes of our faith that have gone before us. Thank Him for the person that brought you to Christ and praise Him for this message of hope that is worth giving our lives for.

Personal Prayer Focus:

Acts 5:41 "The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus."

The disciples were not only bold and courageous, they also faced suffering for the gospel with joy. Let's pray for the same heart towards any persecution or disgrace we may face as we follow Christ. So often we are so wrapped up in how we think people should behave towards us and treat us, that we miss out of the 'gift' that being treated wrongly **for the sake of Christ** can be to our souls. They counted it an honor to suffer in some small way like Jesus had for us.

ALL CHURCH Prayer Focus:

Pray for all of our Junior High and Highschool students. Pray that God would intervene in the midst of their lives that have been turned upside down by this pandemic. Pray for our Hype ministry that is speaking life and truth into their lives every Wednesday. Pray for our Next Generation Pastors, Chad and Cherish, and their leaders, that they would have wisdom, boldness, grace and strength as they pour into these students.

Day Five

Scripture Acts 7 – 9

Thanksgiving and Worship:

Take some time to reflect on all that you read in Acts 7 - 9. Let that shape your thanksgiving and worship today.

Personal Prayer Focus:

Acts 8:4 “But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went.” Once again, persecution was meant to stop the spread of the Gospel & the growth of the church, but what was meant for harm, God used to exponentially multiply the church. We believe that is exactly what will happen during this season we are in as a country. Pray that you would be equipped and willing to give your all in these critical times.

ALL CHURCH Prayer Focus:

Pray for every man and woman at AC to be filled continually with the Holy Spirit so we can live the sacrificial, kingdom driven life that we see in Acts.

Day Six

Scripture Acts 10 - 12

Thanksgiving and Worship:

Begin by praising and thanking God that He hears our prayers. Praise Him that he moves mightily on our behalf and invited us to come to Him for all we need.

Personal Prayer Focus:

Just as Jesus sent Peter to Cornelius in Acts 10, maybe there is someone in your life who God has been laying on your heart for a while. Maybe they are not like you and you don't think they would listen to you. Whatever may be holding you back from befriending them or speaking what God keeps laying on your heart to tell them, give that to God today. Then ask Him for the boldness and opportunity to share the love of Christ with them.

ALL CHURCH Prayer Focus:

Acts 12:5 & 7 “⁵ But while Peter was in prison, **the church prayed very earnestly for him...** ⁷ Suddenly, there was a bright light in the cell, and an angel of the Lord stood before Peter. The angel struck him on the side to awaken him and said, “Quick! Get up!” And the chains fell off his wrists.”

Our individual prayers are powerful, but when we are united with our church family in prayer over something, there is tremendous power in that. You never know whose chains could be broken and who will be set free as we join together in prayer during these 21 days. **Let's pray for all those in our church family who are bound in addiction of any kind, who are enslaved by sin, and who are feeling hopeless right now. Let's pray that their 'chains' will be broken and freedom would come in Jesus name.**

Day Seven

Scripture Acts 13 - 15

Thanksgiving and Worship:

Our God is never changing. His Word, his ways and his character never change. Let's praise him that He is the firm foundation that we can build our lives on. Praise Him for his constant character, that truth is found in Him alone, and that He is our sure foundation when everything else is shaking around us.

Personal Prayer Focus:

Reading through today's scripture shows just how fickle and fallible the human heart is. From jealousy overtaking the Jewish leaders causing them to incite a mob against Paul & Barnabas, to the people who were eating up every word that they were preaching. That same group of people then wanted to make "gods" out of them and offer sacrifices to them, then turned around and stoned them. Someone else came along with a message that sounded good to them and because Paul & Barnabas didn't give in to their desires to make them gods, they tried to kill them. Standing for God's unchanging truth may cost us in this life, but the alternative of living outside of truth, like those who are blown and tossed by the changing winds of our society, is eternally devastating.

Pray for the ability to stand strong when persecution comes. Pray for a hunger for truth, eyes and discernment to see when something is false, and for conviction & grace to stand no matter what the cost.

ALL CHURCH Prayer Focus:

Acts 13:2 "One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them. So, after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way."

This is an amazing example of what happens in the midst of a group of people praying and fasting together. God brought about a divine partnership and a divine calling on Paul, Barnabas and the men who were there praying for them. We all have a part to play in the work of God that is happening in our world. Let's pray that in this season, there will be people like Paul and Barnabas who receive specific callings from the Lord, let's pray for divine partnerships to be birthed (whether it is two people following the call of God or divine connections with the AC church family & other outreaches). Finally let's ask that the Lord would speak to those that would send people out covering them in prayer and providing for any needs that they may have.