

# 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting Prayer Prompts

Theme of Jubilee: Forgiveness,  
Reconciliation, Hope

# Intro for Jubilee:

**A**s we close out the year, we are looking ahead to what God has for us in the new year and can't wait for our annual 21 Days of prayer and fasting to begin on January 9th! As we approach these 21 Days we'd like to encourage you to ask the Lord what he'd like you to focus on during this intentional time of seeking Him. As a Church we have decided to embrace Jesus' words from the gospel of Luke, declaring that His coming was the year of jubilee.

**T**he concept of jubilee was put into place originally during the time of Leviticus. This was a year where all debts were forgiven financially, mercy was shown to those who had committed crimes, and families and relationships that had been fractured were reconciled. It was the great socio and economic 're-set' button. And so, when Jesus shared these words, that the year of Jubilee had come, He was declaring that with Him it's always Jubilee! Through Him we can experience forgiveness, reconciliation, and most treasured, hope!

# Friday 1/10

## Scripture

*The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,  
because the Lord has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,[a]  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor  
and the day of vengeance of our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,  
and provide for those who grieve in Zion—  
to bestow on them a crown of beauty  
instead of ashes,  
the oil of joy  
instead of mourning,  
and a garment of praise  
instead of a spirit of despair.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
a planting of the Lord  
for the display of his splendor.*

- Isaiah 61:1-3 NIV

## Reflection

**A**s we embark on this time of intentional prayer and fasting, we come before the Lord, laying our hearts bare, longing for more of His presence and all that He offers.

**I**n the midst of our brokenness—both personal and collective—our hearts yearn for the wrongs in our world to be made right. The passage in Isaiah

that we reflect on today is the very scripture Jesus recited at the start of His public ministry. Fresh from the wilderness, where He was tempted by the Devil and came out empowered by the Holy Spirit, Jesus boldly declared that He Himself fulfilled the promises of this ancient prophecy, ushering in the hope of the Year of Jubilee.

**T**wo thousand years later, we hold fast to His words, clinging to the hope and restoration He brings. In a world desperate for healing, we acknowledge our deep need for a good King—a righteous Ruler—who alone can make all things new. The despair we witness can only be redeemed through Christ: through His death, resurrection, and the invitation He extends to each of us to serve as His emissaries here on earth.

## Prayer Prompt

- Let us begin by inviting the Holy Spirit to expand our capacity to experience and receive more of God.
- Ask the Lord for the grace to allow Him to do His work for us. Pray that we would not resist the sanctifying work of the Spirit as we are made more like Christ and brought closer to His heart.
- Pray that the Lord would accomplish all that He desires to accomplish during these twenty-one days.

- Lastly, if there is a specific desire or need you have that you would like to see God move mightily in, take time to write out this bold request. We can't wait to hear the testimonies that come out of this time!

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

*- Eph. 3:20-21 NIV*

# Week 1- Forgiveness

Monday 1/13

## Scripture

*A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."*

- Mark 2:1-12 NIV

**N**ow some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

**I**mmediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

## Reflection

**H**ow fascinating is this account of Jesus! If we're honest with ourselves, we might also question the importance of forgiveness when compared to the ability to walk. Isn't the latter far more urgent? Yet, Jesus seemed to think otherwise. To Him, forgiveness was the deeper, more pressing need—a healing not just of the body, but of the soul.

**T**he late pastor and Bible scholar, Tim Keller, gives a compelling explanation for this experience in his final book written before he passed away entitled, *Forgive*. *“But Jesus, as it were, is saying: “Look around you at all these people—they can all walk. Are their hearts all filled with contentment? Are they all happy? If I only heal you, you will be overjoyed for a while, but then you will become like everyone else.”* No. What the man needed was forgiveness. Forgiveness gets down to the bottom of things—to the alienation we feel from God and from ourselves because of our wrongdoing. Jesus was saying: *“I want to show you that the deepest need of your nature is for me. Only I can bestow perfect love, new identity, endless comfort”*

**S**in has alienated us from God. Whether we are conscious of it or not, this is where our greatest pain comes from. Only Jesus has the ability to pardon our sin and it is His joy to do so. This restored relationship with our Creator is made possible by the miraculous beauty of Christ's forgiveness towards us.

**T**hough the giving and receiving of forgiveness as a whole can often be a journey, the place where we must start is with receiving God's forgiveness towards us. It is impossible to forgive others unless we first have received His forgiveness.

# Prayer Prompt

- Are there physical or material needs you have that you have been prioritizing over your need for God? Confess this now to Jesus.
- Receive His forgiveness.
- Ask Jesus what you actually need. Love, identity, endless comfort?
- Now open your hands to receive the intangible benefits of those who are called the children of God.



# Tuesday 1/14

## Scripture

*This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.*

*If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.*

- 1 John 1:5-9 NIV

## Reflection

**H**ave you ever thought you'd messed up so terribly that God could surely never forgive you? If only people knew the depth of wrong doing you'd committed you would be shunned forever?

**O**ur enemy, the devil, would love for us to believe that there are sins that are too weighty to be pardoned from. However, scripture shows us this simply isn't true.

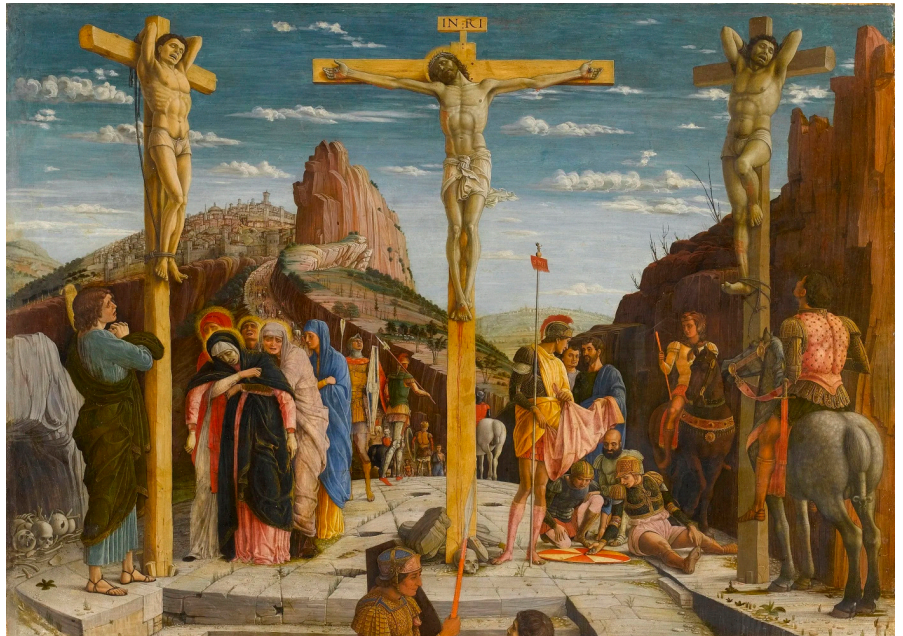
**Y**ou might be surprised to know that Jesus welcomed a thief, some historians would even argue a murderer, into His Kingdom just minutes before His death.

**L**uke 23:39-43, One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, “So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you’re at it!”

**B**ut the other criminal protested, “Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”

**A**nd Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

**T**his artistic depiction, titled *La Crucifixion* by Andrea Mantegna illustrates this scene vividly. The one looking away from Jesus, hangs in darkness. The other, his face towards Christ, is warmly lit as if Mantegna wanted to make clear their eternal destinies. The one who knew the error of His ways came to the place of spiritual



poverty. As Jesus preached in the Sermon on the Mount, “*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.*” (Matt. 5:3) In other words, “*Happy are those who finally come to understand their great need for me and are ready to receive my forgiveness, they will enter into my Kingdom.*”

**J**esus’ demonstration of divine forgiveness should bring us great hope because it proves that there is never a sin so great that Christ’s love can not cover it. We also see that it’s never too late to receive God’s forgiveness; after all, the thief was moments from death.

**A**ll that is required of us is to confess our sins. 1 John 1:9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

## Prayer Prompt

- Are there any sins you are harboring in the secret places of your life out of fear of rejection? Any doors to your heart that you have kept shut and have kept Christ out of?
- Reflect now.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you courage to believe that you are worthy of love and not exempt from God's saving grace. Confess your sins now.
- To confess means to tell the truth. So confessing sin is simply telling God the truth. "God, the truth is. . ."
- Welcome His grace.
- Ask for your eyes to be opened to the reality that you are forgiven.

# Wednesday 1/15

## Scripture

*Luke 23:34a*

*Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."*

## Reflection

**T**hese words of Jesus, spoken from the cross are astounding. Looking out over his persecutors, His executors, He mustered the courage to forgive them, even before they were remorseful.

**O**ne of the most difficult things a Christian will face is offering genuine forgiveness to those who have deeply hurt them. Corrie Ten Boom, a true mother in the faith showed us with the love of the Spirit that it's possible to forgive the unforgivable.

**C**orrie Ten Boom worked against the Nazis in World War Two hiding Jews in her home. When she was caught, she was sent to a concentration camp where she was stripped of her dignity, saw her father and her sister (Betsie) die, and suffered more at the hands of other people than we could imagine. This is precisely why her encounter with forgiveness is so memorable:

*"It was at a church service in Munich that I saw him, the former S.S. man who had stood guard at the shower door in the processing center at Ravensbruck. He was the first of our actual jailers that I had seen since that time. And suddenly it was all there - the roomful of mocking men, the heaps of clothing, Betsie's pain-blانched face.*

*He came up to me as the church was emptying, beaming and bowing. 'How grateful I am for your message, Fraulein.' He said. 'To think that, as you say, He has washed my sins away!'*

*His hand was thrust out to shake mine. And I, who preached so often to the people in Bloemendaal the need to forgive, kept my hand at my side.*

*Even as the angry, vengeful thoughts boiled through me, I saw the sin of them. Jesus Christ had died for this man; was I going to ask for more? Lord Jesus, I prayed, forgive me and help me to forgive him.*

*I tried to smile, I struggled to raise my hand. I could not. I felt nothing, not the slightest spark of warmth or charity. And so again I breathed a silent prayer. Jesus, I cannot forgive him. Give me your forgiveness.*

*As I took his hand the most incredible thing happened. From my shoulder along my arm and through my hand a current seemed to pass from me to him, while into my heart sprang a love for this stranger that almost overwhelmed me.*

*And so I discovered that it is not on our forgiveness any more than on our goodness that the world's healing hinges, but on his. When he tells us to love our enemies, He gives, along with the command, the love itself."*

*- Excerpt from The Hiding Place*

## Prayer Prompt

- Is there someone in your life that it is hard for you to forgive? Maybe someone who has betrayed you, wronged you, or hurt someone you love. Perhaps it is someone you vehemently disagree with on a topic and cannot seem to agree with. These are the ones Jesus calls us to forgive. Forgiveness does not always lead to restoration but it does lead to healing and relinquishing the need for comeuppance.

- Invite the Holy Spirit to enter into your circumstance and ask for an enlargement of your capacity for forgiveness.
- Open your hands and receive the grace that is offered through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Ask for the Lord to give you His eyes so that you might be able to see the person/s/persons that have wronged you the way Christ sees them.
- Pray for the grace to forgive those who have wronged you, even when it feels like an impossible task. Ask God to remove any bitterness, and replace it with compassion. Pray for the strength to release any grudges, remembering that forgiveness is not only for the one who wronged you but also for your own healing and freedom.

# Thursday 1/16

## Scripture

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

*- Colossians 3:12-14 NIV*

## Reflection

*"The demands of forgiveness are so daunting that they seem humanly impossible. The demands of forgiveness are simply beyond the capacity of ungraced human will. Only reckless confidence in a Source greater than ourselves can empower us to forgive the wounds inflicted by others. In boundary moments such as these there is only one place to go—Calvary."*

*- Brennan Manning*

**W**e forgive because we have first been forgiven, empowered by the Holy Spirit to do so. On our own, we are incapable of forgiving as Christ has called us to. How easily we forget the depth of the forgiveness we have received—mercy extended to us when we deserved none, grace given in place of the wrath that was rightfully ours.

# Prayer Prompt

- Ask for a fresh understanding and revelation of how much you have been forgiven. Pray that the Holy Spirit would open your eyes to see the price that was paid on your behalf.
- Take a moment to reflect on specific moments in your life where you experienced God's grace and forgiveness. Thank Him for His unmerited mercy.
- Pray that your forgiveness would overflow from the understanding that you have been forgiven when you were not deserving of it.



# Friday 1/17

## Scripture

*Romans 12:17-18 NIV Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

*“There is always a cost to wrongdoing and it must fall on someone. Either the wrongdoer bears it or someone else must. This is true even if the wrong is not something that can be measured financially. The cost may be in reputation or relationship or health or something else. To forgive is to deny oneself revenge (Romans 12:17-21), to absorb the cost, to not exact repayment by inflicting on them the things they did to you in order to “even the score.” Therefore forgiveness is always expensive to the forgiver, but the benefits—at the very least within your heart, and at best in the restoration of relationship and a witness to the power of the gospel—outweigh the cost.”*

*- Tim Keller.*

**F**orgive: Why Should I and How can I?

## Reflection

**O**ur natural inclination, when wronged, is to retaliate. Without the Holy Spirit, we are drawn toward evening the score or even seeking revenge. But in Christ, we are citizens of a different kingdom—one that operates by radically different principles. In this kingdom, we are called to “*turn the other cheek*” (Matthew 5:39) when wronged and to “*give your coat as well*” (Matthew 5:40) when something has been taken from us. Such a response is profoundly counter-cultural, yet it embodies the coming kingdom of God.

**T**his is not a call to weakness or timidity in standing for what is right. Rather, it is the outward expression of meekness—strength under control. We see this vividly displayed in Christ on the cross. Though taunted and ridiculed, He did not descend from His suffering or avenge Himself. Instead, He remained, suspended by nails, exposed to shame and torture, choosing not to repay evil with evil. With a weak voice, He prayed for His persecutors. This is how we are called to forgive others.

## Prayer Prompt

- Bring your desires for retaliation when you've been wronged before the Lord. Lay down your need to display your strength by evening the score. Ask Jesus to renew your mind and to display through you His meekness that was displayed on Calvary for you and your sin against Christ.
- Take a moment and be honest with yourself. Receive Christ's love for you and the other person, and allow that love to mold your heart into the likeness of Christ.

