

40 DAYS OF PRAYER
LENT DEVOTIONAL

Week #4: March 4-9

Monday, March 4 | Day 17

Today's Devotional comes Karen Fitchett

Scripture: *John 17:10, "All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them" (NIV).*

As I began reading, thinking, and praying about this Scripture, I was reminded that these words in red (in my Bible) are, Jesus' words, which gives them great significance. I was also reminded to read the scripture in context. This prayer was spoken at the last supper Jesus had with His disciples. [John chapters 13 to 17](#) are the events and words of Jesus at the Last Supper.

If you had one more supper with someone before you died, who would it be and what would you say? Jesus was giving them the gift of His words.

He is praying for His disciples at this point and goes on to pray for all believers in verses 20-26.

If Jesus prayed for them, he is praying for us! (Also, see [Romans 8:34](#) and [Hebrews 7:25](#))

Jesus is talking to his Father and says, "All I have is yours, and all you have is mine." Jesus talks about the Trinity during the Last Supper in John 14:15-17 and 26-27. In John 16:7 He says, "it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you" (NIV). Jesus is telling them about the Advocate or Holy Spirit that will live within those who surrender their lives to Him. The Trinity is a mystery with the three - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - yet one. I do not presume to have a significant understanding of the Trinity, however, I do know that as Jesus and God shared all with each other and the Holy Spirit, He shares with us too. The King of the Universe shares all He has with us and all we have is His. Do we really get this? Our worry, our striving and straining, makes no sense if we really understand that he is with us and provides everything we need (Psalm 23:1).

Do we really grasp what it means to have the most powerful force in the universe live within us?

Jesus continues praying for the disciples, "And glory has come to me through them." Earlier at the Last Supper, Jesus shares about what brings God glory. It is when we "bear much fruit" (John 15:8). He had explained this earlier in John 15 when talking about the vine and the branches and if we remain in Him, we can bear much fruit. It is unity with him that produces the fruit through us and brings Him glory. He reiterates this later in chapter 17 when he is praying for all believers (John 17:21-23). It is complete unity with the Father, Son,

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and Holy Spirit that causes the world to see His love in us. Unity with God and our brothers and sisters in Christ, brings glory to God.

Are we bringing glory to God with how we love Him and those around us?

We have access to the Holy Spirit within us to help us. As one of my favorite Bible teachers says, He meets us where we are, and never leaves us there. How exciting is that? My hope and prayer is that you will find something helpful in this devotional. If something touches your heart, all praise and glory goes to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

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Tuesday, March 5 | Day 18

Today's Devotional comes Nathan Keeler Jr

Scripture: *John 17:10: All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them.*

Today's devotional will answer the question: Recognizing that everything belongs to God, how can we live a life of true stewardship and unity with others?

In order to fully understand this passage, we need to look back at the previous verses, to get a better context. Verse 1: "When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you.'" What is Jesus asking God here? He is asking His father to elevate Himself for the purpose of reflecting God's goodness. A little bit confusing, I know. So let's go deeper. Verse 4: "I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do". This verse perfectly sums up Jesus' purpose on Earth, when He says, "glorify you." Jesus was sent to Earth to elevate his Father. Jesus wasn't on Earth to get His own agenda. Instead, He came to save us, glorifying God in the process.

With this context we can better understand verse 10, "All mine are yours, and yours are mine". Jesus is saying: "Father, all my victories here on Earth are your victories in Heaven." Every life Jesus saved elevated the Father's name.

What does this mean for us? You and I have the same purpose here on Earth that Jesus did: to elevate the name of God. Whether we are at school or at work, the question we should ask ourselves is, "How can I demonstrate God's goodness and purposes for his glory?" For example, when you read this today think about someone you can show the love of God to and pray for them. Also pray that God would use you for His purpose.

Today here's a way you can pray, "Lord show me specific ways I can lift up your name and use me as a witness, as You did Your son, Jesus Christ. Give me opportunities to spread Your word and allow me to use every chance for Your glory. Amen."

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Wednesday, March 6 | Day 19

Today's Devotional comes Danielle Leach

Scripture: *John 17:11: "And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one."*

Jesus prayed for the protection and unity of His disciples. How can we actively pray for the protection and unity of fellow believers?

Jesus knew He was leaving, he knew He would be in Heaven and that we would be left on this Earth. So, he prays for us. He asks God to keep us in God's name. Jesus wants us to be one body of Christ ([Ephesians 4:2-6](#)). He wants us united, so he prays. He asks the Lord to look over us and to keep us with Him. We should also want these things. We should want unity as one body of Christ and protection for all our fellow believers.

It's easy to pray for yourself, as you know the things you need best after all. You know the pains you feel and the daily problems you face. However, as children of God, we should not just live in our own pains, but look to the pains other people face. Our two greatest commandments are to love one another, just as Jesus has loved us and to love our neighbors as ourselves ([Matthew 22:36-39](#)). So just as Jesus has loved us and prayed for us, we are to love others and pray for them. In the same way that we love ourselves and offer prayers for our own struggles, let us extend that love towards others and pray for them with the same intensity as if we were interceding for ourselves.

As the body of Christ, we are to love each other and pray for each other. We need to go out of our way to know one another, and to pray for one another. Prayer has had a major impact on my life, as it probably also has had in your life. My mom tells me often about what she prayed for me while she was pregnant. She prayed that I would be strong, that I would not let everyone's opinions of me control me, and that I would have my father's eyelashes. So, growing up, I faced challenges and grew to be a strong follower of Christ who learned to be a leader and have been taught how not to worry about what others think of me constantly. I also have my father's long eyelashes. My mother's prayers, and the prayers of all the other important people who have loved me, have impacted my life more than I will ever really be able to comprehend. Your prayers for other people will have more of an impact on them than you will ever know. So just as Jesus prayed for us, pray for others.

I invite you to pray for someone now, with the deep love that Jesus has for them, and pray for the kind of unity He desires.

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Thursday, March 7 | Day 20

Today's Devotional comes from Mandi Scalia

Scripture: *John 17:12 - "While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled."*

Jesus protected His disciples by the name given by the Father. How does the name of God serve as a source of protection in our lives?

If you have ever read Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, you may remember Juliet's well-known line, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other word would smell as sweet." In this part of the play, Juliet is expressing her frustration that the reason she was not allowed to be with the man she loved was because of his last name - Montague - a name that belonged to the family that had been feuding with her family for years.

So, what IS in a name? If you think back through history, many names may come to mind that could be associated with greatness - Albert Einstein, George Washington, Martin Luther King, Jr., or even Biblical heroes, such as Moses or Paul. But none of these people can compare to the greatness of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In our passage today, Jesus talks about the power in the name that had been given to Him by His Father. Jesus' power and presence had provided His followers with protection from evil and from being corrupted by the world. While we do not have the physical presence of Jesus as His disciples did, as believers, we continue to have access to His power and protection through His name.

According to *Philippians 2:9-11*, God gave Jesus the name that is greater than any other name. This passage states, "Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." We also know from *Romans 10:13*, "For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." To call on the name of the Lord is to recognize our own depravity and desperate need for a Savior. Jesus possesses the power to protect us from the punishment of our sin.

Not only do we find salvation in the name of Jesus, but His name is also a source of abundant peace. One of my favorite verses is *Proverbs 18:10*, "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe." I don't know about you, but I often feel overwhelmed by the stresses of this world. When I choose to run to Jesus rather than what the world has to offer, I find peace in His presence. The name of Jesus protects us when the circumstances of our lives feel impossible. In Him, we find safety and refuge. What an amazing promise!!

As we reflect on the death and resurrection of our Lord, let's praise God for the power and protection we have been given through His name! He is Jehovah Jireh - our Provider! When facing life's storms, I encourage you to call upon Jesus, the name above all names!! Take a moment right now, to speak aloud and pray to that beautiful and powerful name, Jesus! Amen.

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Friday, March 8 | Day 21

Today's Devotional comes Willie Lin

Scripture: *John 17:13 (NIV) – “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.”*

Jesus desired His joy to be in His disciples. How can we experience the full measure of joy through our relationship with Christ?

In today's Lent devotional, we see that Jesus continues to pray after the last supper. In [verses 6 through 19](#), Jesus focuses his prayer on the disciples. Jesus knows that He will soon no longer be in the world, and wants the full measure of His joy with the disciples. According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, some synonyms of joy are blissfulness, happiness, gladness, delight, gaiety, cheerfulness, and exuberance. What a wonderful prayer! Jesus is asking for the full measure of His joy to be within his disciples!

As I pondered this verse, and reading ahead just a few chapters to the upcoming events, the word “joy” probably might not be on the minds of the disciples. Over the next few hours Peter would cut off the ear of the high priest's servant; Jesus would be arrested; the disciples would disperse and hide; Peter would deny Jesus three times; and Jesus would be taken to the Romans to be executed. If you or I were there, I'm pretty sure that joy might not be on our minds either, probably the opposite!

So, “joy” doesn't seem to make sense as part of Jesus' prayer here ... or does it? Jesus knows all about how, even after three years of closeness, the disciples still had difficulty understanding Jesus' teachings. We can see this with Peter's three denials and Thomas's doubting after the resurrection. The disciples, just as we are still today, have human thoughts and emotions that can be easily influenced and swayed. Jesus knew and loved his very human disciples; and prayed for His joy to be within them after He left the world. Jesus knew the joy of being with the Lord, no matter the circumstances, and wanted the disciples to have that same joy also.

The disciples were regular people who were called to serve Jesus. Like them, we also can be easily influenced, swayed, distracted from our service. Maybe there are times that we don't sense joy in our lives. Wouldn't we all want to be happy, glad, cheerful, and blissful that our Savior wants joy for us! Jesus' prayer in John 17:13 can still encourage today's disciples; that His joy is our joy.

Lord, as we reflect back on Jesus' prayers after the last supper, may we be strengthened by the same prayers. We need your protection and your word. Thank you for the full measure of joy from Jesus. Amen.

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Saturday, March 9 | Day 22

Today's Devotional comes Pete Zuber

Scripture: *John 17:14* "I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world."

In this section of Jesus' prayer, he is specifically praying for his disciples who will be heading out into the world to proclaim the Good News. As believers, Jesus also gave us the responsibility of sharing our faith with the Great Commission ([Matthew 28:18-20](#)). The world has a different mindset and may despise us or show hatred toward us. How are we to respond?

Our world is experiencing a significant time of conflict, divisions, hatred and bigotry which have spilled over into most areas of our lives. We just need to turn on the nightly news or listen to any number of talk-shows or podcasts to see how not to respond.

What would Jesus have us to do? In the Sermon on the Mount ([Matthew 5:44-45](#)), He commands us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. Those are easier words for us to say, than they are actions for us to carry out. Noted theologian JB Phillips wrote, "it is a temptation for all of us to separate our love of God from our concern for man ... Yet Jesus insisted that love of God must go hand in hand with love of fellow man."

Grant Hill is a former NCAA Champion and NBA professional basketball player. Just weeks ago he was addressing the Duke University community on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and invoked God's word and our duty to "heed scripture's lessons to love our neighbor as ourselves."

How can we do this practically? I teach at a small secular college. So many of the students who attend our school are struggling with their own gender identification, sexual orientation, and need for love and acceptance. They can be quite vocal at times about a whole host of issues and usually do not look favorably upon the Church or God. Honestly, God and things of faith are not even on their radar.

I always try to show my students that first of all, I care for them as people. I am there to teach them, to help them learn, and to enable them to succeed in their chosen profession. I am not always successful at conveying those ideas but I do try. When I do have the opportunity to share the fact that I am a Christian, or regularly attend church or that I live my life according to the Bible, they are often surprised. Their actual experiences with Christians many times have been different.

Proverbs 15:1 says, "a gentle answer turns away wrath but a harsh word stirs up anger." I have learned to be patient and I frequently find the need to "bite my tongue" for a while before speaking. Above all else, I seek God's guidance in how I should respond. I think that is the key. Christian author Jill Briscoe offers this reflection, "People may resist our advice, spurn

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our appeals, reject our suggestions, refuse our help but they are powerless against our prayers”.

As you engage your world this week, may you seek to listen to opposing points of view, find ways to show love to those you disagree with, and may you diligently pray for God’s help.