

40 DAYS OF PRAYER
LENT DEVOTIONAL

Week #6: March 18-23

Lent Devotional Day 29 | Monday, March 18 Today's Devotional comes from Michelle Figueroa

Scripture: John 17:20 - "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message."

Jesus prayed for future believers and led by His example, each generation of believers prays for the next. These prayers connect past, present, and future believers; Jesus calls us to be an active part of His prayer chain for the lost.

I never planned on getting pregnant right after graduating college. I was living for myself, seeking adventure and worldly love. I was lost. God changed all of that, grabbing my attention by bringing a little one into my life, forcing me to shift my focus. Over the first six months of my son's life, I felt Jesus drawing me back to Himself. Like the prodigal, I made my way home to my parents, where my son and I were welcomed with open arms. Within a few days, there was a surprise visitor at the door. A high school friend, a disciple of Christ, stopped by after hearing I was back home. She specifically came to remind me that God loved me and to invite me and my son to church, where God would welcome us with His unconditional love. During our visit, she told me she had been praying for me to come to faith in God for eight years. Gradually, the seeds planted from high school and college friends began to bloom in my heart, their messages of Jesus' faithfulness and forgiveness were true and clear. I was born again and baptized within months of her visit to my home, changing the course of generations to come.

In John 17:20, Jesus prays to the Father, not only for his current disciples, but for all future believers who will be saved through their messages. It amazes me that Jesus prayed for all future believers. As I've meditated on this verse, my eyes were opened to the fact that this verse literally tells us that Jesus prayed for you and me and all other lost souls who would ever come to faith in Him. Also, Jesus prayed for the future believers who would be saved through the messages of His disciples. I believe this applies to all of us who are current disciples. The way we live, love, and share testimonies are all beautiful reminders to others of God's unfailing love, mercy and forgiveness. Future believers will be saved through our messages, both spoken and unspoken. This is exactly what happened in my life.

As disciples, we follow Christ's lead, praying for the future believers, the unsaved. Who is on your mind and heart that doesn't know God or who has wandered away from the faith? Be faithful. Don't give up. My friend didn't give up on me. It took eight years of her faithful prayers, eight years of remembering me as she watched me run away from God. Someone prayed for you; now it's your turn.

As disciples, we are the hands and feet of God. My friend not only prayed, but obediently found me and shared her testimony of God's great love. God had her wait patiently for eight years before scheduling our divine appointment at just the right time, and she was faithful.

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Take some time today to meditate on the following questions: What does it mean to pray for the lost? Who do you need to pray for today? With whom is God prompting you to share your testimony of His great love? He is faithful to use your message to draw the lost back to Himself.

I'm praying for your bold obedience to pray for the lost and share His message.

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Lent Devotional Day 30 | Tuesday, March 19

Today's Devotional comes from Jonathan Nazigian

Scripture: John 17:20-21 - "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

We know that while He was with us here on earth, Jesus regularly prayed to His Heavenly Father. And we know that He often prayed with and for His disciples. But what a fascinating thing to realize that two thousand years ago, Jesus prayed for you and me! Long before we were ever born, Jesus knew us, and He prayed for us! We are the ones Jesus refers to in verse 21 . . . the ones who would eventually be saved through the ministry of the disciples.

And what was His desire? He prayed that we would be one. That we would be unified, just as He and the other members of the Trinity were unified.

So, how are we doing with unity? Unfortunately, unity is one of those concepts that sounds great in theory but is so hard to experience in reality. Why is that? Well, for one thing, it is because we are all fallen, sinful beings ([Romans 3:10-12](#)) and we are inherently selfish. Hard as it is to admit, we all have shortcomings, blind spots, rough edges, and stubborn habits. And we tend to instinctively blame any conflicts or problems on others. Maybe you've had the same thought about unity as I have thought. . . "This world would be a lot more unified if everyone would simply think like I do about everything!"

Another reason we struggle with unity, even as believers, is that we often confuse unity with uniformity. We tend to avoid the different, the unfamiliar, and the unknown. That person or those people don't do things exactly like me, or think exactly like me, or prefer the things I prefer, so they must be wrong on some level. And yet, Jesus never commands that Christians be exactly alike in every way. In fact, just the opposite. As just one example, look at those that traveled and served most closely with Jesus: men and women (unheard of in ancient times), poor, blue-collar fisherman and wealthy members of upper society, a tax collector and a zealot.

In many ways, it is in our diversity that our unity is magnified. Paul delves into this topic in depth in [1 Corinthians 12](#). His analogy of the human body is a great way to understand that even though we are all different, and serve in different roles and capacities, we have a unified calling and purpose.

And so, as we seek to honor Christ, may we strive to be:

- Diversified in perspectives and opinions ([Romans 14:1-12](#)) but united in the supremacy of Jesus Christ ([Colossians 1:15-20](#)).
- Diversified in gifts and talents ([1 Corinthians 12:4-5](#)), but united in service ([Matthew 25:35-40](#)).
- Diversified in financial means ([2 Corinthians 8:1-9](#)), but united in generosity ([2 Corinthians 9:7](#)).

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- Diversified in culture ([Galatians 3:27-28](#)), but united in obedience to the Great Commission ([Matthew 28:19-20](#)).
- Diversified in preferences ([Philippians 2:1-5](#)), but preferring one another above ourselves ([Romans 12:10](#))

Take a Moment for Personal Reflection:

1. In what ways have you contributed to disunity through gossip, complaining, social media, etc.? Confess these and ask the Lord to guard your heart in these areas.
2. Do any of your relationships need mending? Ask the Lord to show you ways that you might initiate reconciliation.
3. How can you intentionally seek out those who are different in order to broaden your perspectives, to build bridges to the Gospel, and to glorify God even more?

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Lent Devotional Day 31 | Wednesday, March 20
Today's Devotional comes from Heather McNutt

Scripture: John 17:22 - "The glory that you have given me I have given them, that they may be one even as we are one."

As a youth pastor's wife, I get the privilege of experiencing God in so many fresh and wonderful ways. I was watching a bunch of middle school boys, ages 10-14, and their leaders on a retreat. As we were worshiping through songs and singing together, what stood out the most to me was how they were standing. Arms wrapped around each other's shoulders, swaying back and forth. Even the few who didn't want the physical touch part, were swaying on beat with the others. They wanted to be together, they wanted to be connected, to be one. We want to be one, and when we are worshiping God, experiencing His glory, it becomes easier, natural, even to an awkward middle school boy.

Jesus gave all of us, (his past, present and future followers), His glory, so we can be one. Wow! And not just so we can be one, but so we can be one like He is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit. There is nothing lacking or incomplete about the trinity. There's no loneliness within the trinity. But unlike the trinity, people are lonely, we can feel lonely, but we know the one who unites us. Who makes us part of a much bigger, beautiful story of redemption and oneness. We have an opportunity to experience unity and oneness that reflects the unity of within the trinity.

Do you regularly interact with other believers? Do you know believers who are different from you? Are you able to see your common belief and love for Jesus, in the midst of your differences? This world is large, filled with middle school boys at retreats, 100-year-old grandmas grasping their Bible, Manjui tribal believers in Paraguay, protestant Christians of Switzerland, a homeless man bursting to share his faith and the executive who can't help but generously give. Are you willing to push past the awkward feeling of being different, and instead step into God's glory by being united together, on beat and one with other believers? Even for believers it takes time to understand one another, to relate to one another. But unity is possible, Jesus extends His Glory to us for that purpose. Don't miss that chance, the opportunity to learn about God through our oneness with Him and each other.

Jesus gave us that oneness, it's there. It's already done. Let's experience it, let's step into His glory, with worship, learning and growing together. We are one. Through our embrace for one another we can draw people into that oneness. We can show them the unfathomable love of God. I want to be part of that glorious unity that Jesus gave His life for, and I pray you do too. Prayer: Dear Lord, help me today to be one with You. Help me to take a moment to get in step with your love and your plan. Then Lord, I pray, help me to reveal that love with the

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people around me. Help me to take that awkward step of connecting with other believers. Of stepping into your glory and worshiping together. I know we are one, let that be real to me. I have so much more to learn about You, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The glory of your oneness, and the oneness I experience with You and with fellow believers is one of the truths I continue to learn. Thank you for the opportunity to learn and be one with You. Amen.

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Lent Devotional Day 32 | Thursday, March 21

Today's Devotional comes from Daniel Price

Scripture: John 17:23 - "I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

Did you ever eavesdrop as a kid? I had five sisters, and as the only boy it was frustrating how they constantly spied on my most dastardly, sibling-annoying schemes (and tattle on me!). One time a sister even managed to get a tape-recorder into my room to find out all my most precious preadolescent secrets! They were pernicious and sneaky eavesdroppers.

One reason I love Jesus' prayer in [John 17](#) is because it feels a lot like eavesdropping on the backdoor of heaven, as the Son pours out His heart to the Father for the sake of His disciples. Not just the 12, but for you and me who came after them too. Jesus offers an inside glimpse at his relationship to the Father, and his followers. It's intense, sorrowful, and hope-filled, hinting at the fundamental ways in which Jesus was about to realign human existence.

One incredible truth we hear as we eavesdrop on Jesus' prayer is the idea that when we come to know and trust Jesus, our life becomes intrinsically tied up in the resurrected life of Jesus. We're so inherently connected to him that Jesus says He is in us in a way that relates to the oneness of the Trinity. Jesus said in 17:23, "I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one..." There's so much to unpack there, but consider Paul's words in Galatians 3:20: "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me..." And again, in Colossians 3:3, "For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

Through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the very divine, self-existent essence of the Son is intrinsically tied up with your existence, Christian. It's no wonder Jesus taught that, without our actively abiding in him, we can do nothing ([John 15:5](#)). We are IN him, he is IN us, and because of that fundamental change to our existential reality we can have fellowship and deep relationships both with God himself through Jesus, and with one another. Are you attentive to His life IN you?

Jesus lives his life through you. And Jesus lives His life through me. And when we both learn to submit to him, to truly delight in that reality, His life IN US will make us "perfectly one." Consider this oneness:

We become ONE in Jesus.

We become ONE in how we love.

We become ONE in reflecting the Father.

We become ONE in mission.

We become ONE in purpose.

We become one chorus of harmonizing voices giving witness to the truth of who Jesus is and why he came.

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Learning to individually live in Jesus is actually a group project! By it we show the world the very nature of God in His love for the Son, His love for believers, and His love for the world.

This Easter, take time to think about the very fabric of reality for a Christian:

When Jesus died, you died with Him in your old, sinful self. And now He lives His resurrected life in you – in US – for the world to catch a glimpse of the very nature and mission of God's love. If we let Him.

What wonders we hear when Jesus leaves the backdoor of heaven open a crack for us to eavesdrop. May you love and marvel at Him better for it, brothers and sisters.

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Lent Devotional Day 33 | Friday, March 22

Today's Devotional comes from Craig Montgomery

Scripture: John 17:24 - "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world."

Jesus longs for us to be with Him and to know Him as the Father knows Him and to share that glory with us.

Jesus says He wants those given to Him to "be with me where I am" and "to see my glory." Christ is facing the specter of crucifixion and calls on God to let the disciples be with him there, in that moment, at that time that they would see His glory. At the height of what would be a naturally anxious time, Christ's thoughts are to serve the disciples by letting them be with Him and praising and thanking His father in heaven for the task ahead.

Consider the verse above in relation to what the writer of Hebrews says "He endured the cross despising its shame." At first pass this doesn't seem like a type of glory that I would want but Jesus was so in relation to the Father that He knew fulfilling the Father's plan was the greatest glory and that the disciples witnessing it would bring glory to God as they would have their hearts affected and ultimately spread His gospel because of it. In spite of all the pain ahead, the mocking, the betrayal, and the death, Jesus reflects that the glory before Him was given to Him because the Father loved Him before the creation of the world. Imagine that before the foundation of the world God had a plan for salvation and His son saw the glory that the Father had ordained in that act.

Given that the love between Jesus and the Father is so complete that Jesus considered it glory to be fulfilling God's plan, how does that shape your thinking on the frustration and irritations of this life today as you seek to love God more and walk deeper into His sanctification?

Prayer: Father God, as I navigate this day, I thank you that You have given us Jesus as our example and the Holy Spirit as our comforter and helper. Thank you for glorifying your Son that you loved before the creation of the world and thank you for loving us so much that You did not spare your Son. Lord God, give me the strength to see Your work for me on this earth. Let me see part of that glory with confidence that because Jesus is triumphant, we who have faith in Him will be triumphant. Thank you that because of Your love, at the name of Jesus every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord of all to the glory of God.

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Lent Devotional Day 34 | Saturday, March 23

Today's Devotional comes from Matthew Spanakos

Scripture: John 17:24 - "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world."

In [John 12:27-28](#), Jesus reaffirms His purpose and accepts His fate to die for the plight of humanity, declaring that the Father's name be glorified above all. With a thunderous voice from Heaven, God answers, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again," once more confirming the authority of Jesus. Here, we see Christ's unrivaled commitment to the first and greatest commandment, loving God with all of His heart, soul, and mind ([Matthew 22:37](#)).

In John 17, we see Christ turning His prayers to His own glory, but even this is not for His benefit. Instead, Jesus seeks that we are unified in this glory, just as the Son is unified with the Father. This is Jesus' unrivaled commitment to loving us!

"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world" (John 17:24).

Jesus is saying that even those who have walked this earth with Him and sat under His teaching have only witnessed a small glimpse of His indescribable majesty. It is a beauty that compels angels to an endless state of worship, crying, Holy, Holy, Holy! This is our Savior, who was, and is, and is to come; who fills the whole earth with his glory ([Isaiah 6:3](#), [Revelation 4:8](#)).

He longs for us to see the true grandeur that He has held since before the world began. Yet, His will is that in seeing it, we would recognize who we really are. That our view of ourselves would burst in the realization of the glory He created us for.

Yet, Christ pouring His glory into our current state is like dumping an ocean into a teacup. We are bound to overflow. Therefore, Jesus' words in John 17:24 must become our own for our children, our families, and all those who are lost. To bring those the Father places along our path to where we are in the faith. To show the glory in us that is from the Son and is rightfully His.

Who has He placed in your path? How have you reflected this glorious union in your life? How can you encourage someone to see the glory of Christ within themselves? Pray that God will open hearts to receive. Pray that you will have bold obedience when the time comes.

Throughout the day, recite 1 Peter 2:9 in the first person:

I am chosen, I am a royal priesthood, I am a holy nation, God's special possession, and I declare the praises of Jesus, who called me out of darkness into His wonderful light.

Amen!