

# **PRAYING WITH JESUS:**

**40 DAYS TOWARD CHURCH  
REVITALIZATION.**



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## **Following Kingdom Leaders (Days 21-26)**

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**TRUE WAY BAPTIST CHURCH  
2020.**

**Adapted from**



# DAY TWENTY-ONE

Jesus taught quite a bit about Kingdom leadership through both His instructions to His disciples, as well as through His rebukes to the scribes and Pharisees. Combined, we get a clear picture of Jesus' expectations for Kingdom leaders and the strategic importance of their influence upon those they lead.

Read Mark 9:33-37. *What is the primary characteristic a follower of Jesus should display if they expect to be exalted, or known as a great person in Christ's Kingdom?*

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## SERVING IN HUMILITY

Those who lead in any local church should first take on the same clothing as Christ in His incarnation. *"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross"* (Philippians 2:3-8). It is not stretching things to suggest that this should be the first mark of anyone who leads in your church family. Do others identify you as a humble servant of others? Ask God to make you more like His Son in this area.

## PRAY...

Holy Spirit, I plead with You to override my humanity and fill me with Your fruit – love and joy and peace and patience and kindness and goodness and gentleness and faithfulness and self-control – so that in all my conversations, and in all my relationships, and in all my patterns of behavior, I will be a humble and delightful servant of blessing to all the people around me. Within the context of our church family compel each of us by Your grace to be devoted to one another in brotherly love in the same pattern by which Jesus demonstrated His love toward us; and cause us to outdo one another in showing honor to each other day after day. Use our humble serving to restore our fellowship and our witness, and to revitalize our church for Your glorious praise. I ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

# DAY TWENTY-TWO

Apart from Christ, serving others humbly, does not come naturally. It is the supernatural work of God in a believer's life. In yesterday's Scripture focus Jesus reprimanded His disciples for their unabashed, competitive clamoring for greatness among themselves. Today's Scripture reveals an even harsher rebuke from Christ about the scribes and Pharisees, the appointed leaders of the Jewish religion.

Read Matthew 23:1-12

## FOLLOW WHO?

*"The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds, for they say things and do not do them"* (Matthew 23:2-3).

Those who are worthy of being followed, lead others by their own example of humility. They do not strive for their own honor, but to honor others. Those who practice such a lifestyle have earned your confidence; follow their lead as they follow Christ in the process of church revitalization. Paul told the Corinthian church, *"Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ"* (1 Corinthians 11:1, NIV).

## PRAY...

Heavenly Father, our church family often has differing opinions about how to address all of the areas in our fellowship that need Your renewing touch. Please unify us around the cross of Jesus, and by Your sovereign grace, to follow those whom You have appointed to lead us through this challenging journey. Help us to walk in love, just as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us. Do not allow a single word of criticism or filthiness or silly talk or coarse jesting escape from our mouths, but only the giving of thanks and words of appreciation for those who are guiding us to follow You. In the mighty name of Jesus, I ask, Amen.

# DAY TWENTY-THREE

Read Matthew 20:20-28. *Jesus describes two kinds of leaders in this passage. In your own words below write out the defining characteristics each kind of leader demonstrates:*

<u><i>Rulers of the Gentiles</i></u>	<u><i>Followers of Jesus</i></u>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>

*Which do you intend to be?*

## WISE LEADERS

Alvin Reid writes these words in his 2013 book, Revitalize Your Church through Gospel Recovery, “The wise leaders know they will never be able to lead in their own power and wisdom. They need both the power and wisdom of God and the help of others” (p. 65). Faithful followers of Jesus know that the key to their ability to lead others in doing God’s work is daily abiding in Christ and His Word, and living in obedience to the teachings of God’s Word, fully dependent on God’s life-giving Spirit.

## PRAY...

Lord Jesus we need leaders who do not try to use human ingenuity and cleverness to bring Your strength back into our church family. We need leaders who depend on You and the counsel of Your Word. Please instruct our leaders daily with Your Word; inspire and motivate them by Your Spirit to obedience and faithfulness. And as we who follow them travel in their footsteps, grant them humility and grant us grace. Restore our church to a Biblical model of servant leadership where Christ is exalted in every decision, and where Your people delight to follow those who follow You. In Jesus’ Name, Amen

# DAY TWENTY-FOUR

Read Matthew 17:14-21

“Those who believe God is able to bring about remarkable things lead revitalized churches. But make no mistake: God’s level of blessing typically rises to the level of our expectation. Look at pastors in history who led revitalizing churches, from McCheyne to Spurgeon, from Baxter to Criswell. These men all had a compelling vision to do something for which only God could be given credit... Sometimes we are so afraid of being presumptuous in our faith we end up believing God for little to nothing. What is happening in your life and ministry just now that can only be explained by the fact that Jesus rose from the dead?”

--Alvin Reid, in REVITALIZE Your Church Through Gospel Recovery (pp. 42, 44-45)

## FAITH

Read Matthew 17:14-21

Jesus’ frustration in this passage is not about the “size” of the disciples’ faith, but the kind of faith they lacked – believing, vibrant, living faith! Jesus said, “*You unbelieving and perverted generation...*” (17:17), and, “*if you have faith the size of a mustard seed...*” (17:20), you will be able to see miracles occur! Again, it is not your size of faith that matters as you seek God’s revitalizing, restoring power in your church. It is a matter of heart-felt, vibrant, living faith in the God of the impossible, even as small as a mustard seed!

## PRAY...

Father, I believe You alone are God; there is no other! You are the author of our salvation and You are the means by which revitalization will happen in my life and in our church. I join the cry of the convulsing boy’s father when he cried out, “*I do believe; help my unbelief!*” (Mark 9:24). Strengthen my faith every single day to keep trusting You alone to do the miraculous in our church! I believe You are more than able to do more than I can even ask or imagine, so please do it as you build my faith every day. In Your Son’s Name I pray, Amen.

# DAY TWENTY-FIVE

A mountain is a beautiful reminder of the power of God! Not only is He the maker of those mountains, but He is able to move them as He desires. Whatever we face as an impossibility is NEVER too big for Him!



## RESOURCES

Jesus feeding five thousand men, plus women and children, with five loaves of bread and two fish, is a miracle recorded by all four Gospel writers (Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:32-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:5-13). Additionally, both Matthew and Mark record Jesus' second miraculous feeding, this time for just four thousand men, plus women and children. Two incredible miracles with insufficient resources for hard-headed disciples who had difficulty believing God can do anything with nothing.

God is still looking for people who will infect those around them with confidence in Him and not in what they might hold in their hand. God has resources available that we don't even know about. Quit looking at your own skills, your bank account or material resources, and look to God who can give us more leftovers than we had initial resources, if we will trust Him!

## PRAY...

Jesus, I am often hindered by what I see instead of helped by what I believe about You in my heart. Please forgive my failure to trust You to provide all the necessary resources for our revitalization as a church. I believe You want to transform our church into a powerful Gospel influence in our area, and I am choosing today to begin to trust You as never before, to provide all that we will need for this work. Show Yourself mighty on behalf of our church! We trust Your providing grace! In Your name I pray, Amen.

# DAY TWENTY-SIX

Stephen T. Um and Justin Buzzard, in their book Why Cities Matter to God, the Culture, and the Church, remind us about the staggering importance of revitalizing all churches, but particularly those in the ever-expanding urban areas of our country and world. They write, “The future of our world will be profoundly influenced by what happens in the city. The world is in the throes of a sweeping population shift from the countryside to the city. The global urban population is growing by 65 million annually, equivalent to adding seven new Chicagos a year... [yet] in the second half of the twentieth century in America, many churches left [or died in] the city.”

The place where your church is located is part of God’s unique and masterful plan to impact the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ. It is of *HIGH STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE* that your church continue to impact your neighborhood, region, and world!!

## FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

Read Matthew 10:1-23. *Who is in charge of the disciples?* \_\_\_\_\_

*List at least five specific instructions He gives His followers:*

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) \_\_\_\_\_

*Who is in charge of the revitalization effort within your church family?*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Are you willing to do whatever He asks?* \_\_\_\_\_

## PRAY...

Jesus, I am so grateful that it is not my responsibility to revitalize our church; thank You that You are more than able to handle this responsibility. I also know You will appoint others to lead various parts of the revitalizing work. Give me and our church family grace to follow their lead without grumbling or complaining; grant us eager hearts to obey Jesus and follow those He appoints to lead us, no matter how greatly we are challenged by the task. I look to You and Your provision of gracious patience and humility throughout the process. In Your Name, I ask this. Amen.