

April 6, 2020 ~A Prayer for Monday of Holy Week)

“Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. ‘It is written,’ he said to them, ‘My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers.’

The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David,’ they were indignant.” Matthew 21:12-16

Lord Jesus, knowing your time was short, you didn't waste any of it getting down to business that long ago Monday morning. The temple in Jerusalem was God's house, "a house of prayer" and not a chaotic, marketplace with distractions making it impossible for your people to spend time with you, seeking wisdom and direction, and receiving your promises. We read that your next order of business was healing, the blind and lame who came to you, Lord. In response to the healings and your busy day, the priest were not pleased. They rebuked you and the children in the temple courts praising you and shouting "Hosanna to the Son of David."

Today, Precious Lord, our busy cities and towns have been emptied, chaotic commerce has ceased, life as usual has come to a halt, and your churches are quiet. Empty rooms and offices where the preparations for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday would be in full swing are silent. What you've taught us in the circumstances of sheltering to limit exposure to COVID-19, has been a clear affirmation of your desire to draw us closer and allow your uninterrupted presence in our lives. Ever Present God, every place we choose for separated from distraction or anyplace we might be alone at any moment, will be exactly where we find you waiting to listen to our thoughts and prayers, to comfort us, guide us, and give us peace. We know too, that even our pauses to honor unexpected prayer requests with arrow prayers are precious to you, and you surely listen. Thank you for wanting to spend sweet time with us in every place and at any time we pray. Thank you listening to us, Lord.

Today and for the next week, our country's medical transporters and professionals in hospitals, clinics, urgent cares, and care facilities need

superhuman wisdom and compassion in right treatment and much needed comforting. Empower them, Lord with quick and accurate recall, with treatment plans, effective medication, and an abundance of the supplies and equipment they need for their patients. Protect them from infection, Merciful God. Your touch, words of assurance, and faith in your power healed and gave hope to the blind and the lame in the temple that day. We call out to you for those same provisions this week. You are The Great Physician, and we call on you to help caregivers heal the suffering. Please strengthen all patients' immune systems and clear congested lungs of those needing ventilators. We know you're working, and we lift up prayers of hope and praise for your powerful presence.

Lord Jesus, just as today in our nation, there were influential naysayers in Jerusalem who mocked your righteous removal of the money changers and your healing miracles. Selfish intentions and deceptions of those fighting this battle on any level are surely being delivered in your name. Criticism and public attacks to persuade and interfere are as disruptive to your plans to help your suffering and dying people now as the priest cries of indignation directed toward you that Monday in Jerusalem. In your omnipotent power, silence the intentional attacks and hold the tongues of those who criticize. Unify all you people in this battle. You are the sovereign leader of the team you've allowed or chosen to lead in all places, Lord. Give your people discernment and clear thinking about those who mock responses and distract from your purposes.

Lord God, the most tragic impact of this raging, viral storm is arriving now with warnings of widespread pain and destruction that brings us to our knees before you. Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus. Those last days of your life on Earth were completely dedicated to saving the lives of your people who came to believe you were who you said you were; Emmanuel, God with us, not only in Heaven, but there in the Holy City and here; here in our cities, our states, our territories, and around the world.

Hear our prayers, oh Lord. Move human spirits in all places and circumstances to be receive and led by your Spirit, to serve you, depend on you, pray to you, and respond with generosity and love in ways that heal and help your people. Let naysayers be silenced when dependence and gratitude of your people honoring your majesty and might is unchangeable and undeniable.

Lord in your mercy and in Jesus's Precious name, hear our prayers. Amen.