

## April 7, 2020 ~A Prayer for Tuesday of Holy Week~

Lord Jesus, we praise you for the teaching you continued sharing this day so long ago; with your disciples, the people in Jerusalem, the chief priest and temple leadership, and all your people from those days until now. Your knew time remaining to accomplish your purposes before God's prophesy would be fulfilled on the cross was short. You persevered and were not distracted from your ministry, offering life instead of death. We must remember to recall and hold tightly to what you taught us. The urgency strengthened your resolve to prepare your disciples, teach your people, and warn your enemies. Your authority, Lord God, over all the world and it's people, then and now, is undeniable.

We are grateful, Lord, for Matthew's Gospel record of your teaching stories, the parables of a cursed fig tree, the vineyard farmers, the wedding banquet, the two sons, and paying taxes, all using examples from the world as it was then. Jesus your revealed your authority and gave them and us a glimpse of heavenly relationships. You used familiar circumstances to teach heavenly lessons about faith and salvation. We recognize warnings about consequences of unbelief and undeniable rebuke directed to your unbelieving enemies. Surely you knew then, that in the world you created, there would always be those who have hard hearts and deny your salvation sacrifice and our most precious gift of life everlasting. Holy Spirit, give us clear understanding, words, confidence, and courage to share your gospel story with family members, friends, and any people you place in our life. Sharing you and your love isn't easy in a world that depends on itself instead of you. Closed minds are as stubborn today as the jealous, angry Pharisees and Sadducees in Jerusalem. Show us ways and give us a bold witness, Loving Savior.

The spread of this viral pandemic has shaken our secure pedestals of self confidence and wanting control of everything in our lives. Lord God, you've watched our frightened responses to this new virus no one on earth could control. We've crawled down from thinking we could do anything to understanding that without you, we can do nothing. Swelled and prideful, "No one can stop me" thinking has changed to uncertainty and "who can help me" thoughts. Thank you for getting our attention, God. Thank you for waiting around and not writing us off as hopeless. Where would each of us be this very moment if we hadn't found hope in your power and unconditional love? We are humbled by your promise to never leave us or forsake us. We've foolishly been deceived into trusting the world; a world where the evil one uses his minions to make us blind to sin disguised as what we think we deserve or have the freedom to do.

**"I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see."**

How piercing are the words of "Amazing Grace" to your children who know the truth and the sacrifice you, Jesus, paid for the promise your Father God made to all people long ago, now, and in the years to come. We honor you and you promise to us, Father in Heaven.

So many sense the revival of trust and dependence on you, Almighty and Everlasting God. In our anxiety, with no immunity to a virus, we admit that in big ways or little ways, we had become no different in our temporary blindness than unbelievers. We were stumbling around, convincing ourselves that we'd foolishly believed the glitz of our own doing could be a substitute for you, "The Light of The World." Thank you for light in the darkness of our sin.

With confidence that you're still with us and listening to our prayers, we ask for what the world cannot do without you, Merciful and Gracious God:

**-Protect us and provide protection for all your chosen medical caregivers and hospital workers who walk into the buildings, and tents, and ships to be your servants helping all infected patients. Protect first**

**responders, law enforcement, military personnel and workers in retail stores who are exposed to danger as they report to work around the clock.**

-Guide us to use what we have to help others in even the smallest ways, and give assurance and resources to so many who have found ways they can change direction, making big contributions to the arsenal of defense by providing medical equipment, personal protective equipment, and food for strength and energy.

-Give wisdom and clear direction to our scientists and researchers as they study what they know today, make changes about what they knew yesterday, and make wise choices for tomorrow.

-Use your power to change people, Omnipotent God. You know what everyone is thinking, you are present in all places, and you out-power the powerful. We ask you to soften stubborn minds and unwilling hearts in the elected and appointed leaders of our nation and control the influential voices of people who are camped on both sides of the political and ideological fence that divides our nation. Silence criticism and block deceptive attempts that distract from progress toward victory. Open all eyes and align all thinking to see the real enemy they must all fight together. End the war if words they are waging across the fence, and unify their focus on the common concerns for all America's people: the sick and all fighting the sickness, the unemployed and those working far beyond exhaustion, the isolated and those who defy guidelines of separation, the sheltered in place and those without homes or shelter. The people of our nation desperately need unity and common purpose right now, Almighty God, and we acknowledge in this prayer that only you have authority over those in authority.

Lord Jesus, you knew the enemy of your people long ago, and you didn't waste a moment of the time you had left living among your people. You gave us directions for victory, and you warned about the ultimate defeat of stubborn unbelief. Give each of us courage to tell someone who doesn't know you about you and up your promise of forgiveness and eternal life. Father God, in Your Son's Name, we ask for your powerful intervention in the hearts, minds, and bodies of each and everyone of your people in our nation.

**Suggestion: Read the Tuesday teachings Jesus shared.**

**Matthew 21:18 - 22:33 in your Bible.**