

BE A BRINGER


“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:


PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

Joshua & Carol Ngunta | Mali



PRAY

- Pray for the Ntydiambougou Mission School as we are committed to standing in the gap for these children through TABITHA CARES USA.

PRAISE

- Praise God that the Ntydiambougou Mission School continues to grow and thrive. Most parents in the village cannot afford school fees. TABITHA CARES MALI makes education affordable for many.

- Praise God for your faithful support and prayers. Your generosity helps them share Christ and give hope to children who lack hope for tomorrow.

GREATER LOVE

Handout: 03/23/25

Study Date: 03/30/25

Greater Love: Prayer

Matthew 26:39 is a gut-wrenching scene, especially for those who love and cherish Christ. Here is an example of a sinless one making a request that is not of the will of God. We are taught first that, though God loves us, it is not always his will to answer our prayers. It is by faith that prayers are prayed which are granted, but faith is not positive thinking or certainty of God’s will in a situation. Christ had faith in his Father, but he did not have faith that what he was asking was the will of God. In fact, he said, “not as I will, but as you will.”

This also shows us that it is not necessarily a product of our sin that we don’t want to suffer, or that we would pray a prayer that is not in alignment with the will of God. A true believer should take comfort from the fact that God will do what is good and right for us, no matter what we are asking. It does not follow that we should never pray, assuming that God will do what he wants anyway. He has ordained it that he accomplishes his purpose in partnership with his people. He told Job’s friends that Job would pray for them and they would be forgiven for their sin against Job and God (Job 42:8).

As for Christ in the garden, it was not likely the pain and death that he was so repulsed by, although he could not have looked forward to it. Rather, it must have been both the separation from his Father in heaven for the first and only time in the eternal past, and the subjection to the sin and wickedness of man in his own body, having “become sin for us” (2 Cor 5:21).

#1 “Going a little farther,”

Jesus asked some of his disciples to stop and pray while he was praying. He went a little bit away to be alone.

#2 “he fell with his face to the ground...”

This is one of the first signs of his great distress to be at the culmination of his earthly ministry and what it was going to cost him.

#3 “and prayed, ‘My Father, if it is possible,’”

This is one sign that in his earthly form Christ had laid down a portion of the omniscience of God. There were things only the Father knew (Mt 24:36).

#4 “may this cup be taken from me.”

Generally, in the Bible, when a cup is used as a prophetic symbol, it refers at least to suffering, and often to the wrath of God. Jesus refers to both when he thinks of drinking the cup prepared for him. It is a cup of suffering because it is the wrath of God for the sins of the world.

#5 “Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

The temporary misalignment of wills between the Son and the Father came as a result of Jesus’ humanity. It was not a pretended role that he played on earth. Christ was fully human and fully God. In his full humanity, he was bound to submit to the will of God even when his own desire was contrary. We should have the same attitude.

Resource: Connectusfund.org

KEY VERSE

Matthew 26:39 (NKJV)

He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

Read Matthew 26:36-46 Every Day

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Matthew 26:39

Introduction

1. What do we learn from the prayer of Jesus in Matthew 26:39? Despite the difficulty of any task, *whose will* must we ultimately serve?
2. What valuable wisdom does paragraph 2 on pg. 1 offer us in regard to praying that "*our own will*" be done? What *comfort* is given to us here?

Tuesday: John 18:1-2; Matthew 6:6

Jesus Prayed In The Garden Of Gethsemane

3. John 18:1-2 tells of Jesus entering the Garden of Gethsemane with His disciples. What was significant about this garden? What happened there?
4. What clear instruction regarding prayer is Matthew 6:6 giving to us as believers? What does it tell us to do?

Wednesday: Mat. 26:37-38; Mat. 26:40,43; Luk. 22:44; Ja. 5:13a

Jesus Prayed During Suffering

5. According to scriptures Matthew 26:37-38, Matthew 26:40,43, Luke 22:44, and II Corinthians 5:21, how many *ways* did Jesus suffer before his death?
6. James 5:13a has a very clear concise message in regard to what we need to do when we are suffering! Are YOU doing it?

Thursday: Matthew 26:39; Matthew 26:42,44; I John 5:14-15

Jesus Prayed For The Father's Will

7. Matthew 26:39 tells of one of Jesus' most memorable and most difficult moments of His ministry. What transpired between Him and the Father?
8. As we move past Jesus' "request" in Matthew 26:39, what do we see Jesus continually doing through verses 42 and 44?
9. What is the promise made to us as believers in I John 5:14-15? What is in store for those of us who ask "*according to His will*?"

Friday: Mat. 26:44; Mat. 26:39a; Mat. 26:45-46; Luk. 18:1

Jesus Found Strength Through Prayer

10. How should we be inspired by Jesus' actions and His prayer in Matthew 26:39a? How can WE be "overcomers" in times of great difficulty?
11. How was Jesus an example of great courage in Matthew 26:45-46? How well would you *rate yourself* at standing up to meet your enemies?
12. In times of trouble and great distress, what does Luke 18:1 tell us that we must do specifically?