

40 DAYS OF *prayer*

WEEK 5 CHRIST AND HIS MISSION

Matthew 28:19–20

As we focus on the life of Christ, this week's theme is *Christ and His Mission*. The primary mission of Jesus was to save humankind from sin and eternal condemnation by offering Himself as the atoning sacrifice. As part of His mission, He extended His sacrifice to include reconciliation, drawing people back to the Father, transforming them into the likeness of His Son and revealing the hope of glory. A significant aspect of His mission is that He invites His disciples and believers to partner with Him in carrying out His work in the world, providing opportunities for unreached individuals to hear the good news. Jesus is a missional figure who sends people to mobilize the presence of the gospel worldwide. We are grateful that God has given The Christian and Missionary Alliance the desire and passion to send workers across the globe to spread the gospel to many unreached people groups.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *Do you actively share the gospel? How often do you feel the urge to share?*
- *What is your biggest challenge in sharing the gospel?*
- *How will you overcome the barriers to sharing the gospel?*

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SANCTIFIED TO BEAR WITNESS

Redemption isn't an idea.
It's not a doctrine to memorize or a box to check.
It's a movement.
A mission.
A God who refuses to stay distant,
who steps into the ache of the world
and says, "I'll go."

Jesus doesn't drift through the crowd in Jericho,
hoping to bump into someone who needs saving.
No, He's hunting.
Locked in.
Laser-focused on the ones everyone else walks past.

The overlooked. The outcast.
The ones who quietly wonder if they're too far
gone to matter.
He sees what others miss . . .
a man in a tree,
half-hidden by leaves and shame.

Zacchaeus isn't noble.
He's desperate.
Desperate to see something real.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:23-24

Someone true.
Desperate to know if redemption might have
room for someone like him.

And Jesus?
He doesn't hesitate.
He stops.
He calls.
He walks straight into the home of a man
no one thought was worth redeeming.

Because that's what redemption does.
It moves toward the mess.
It invites itself to dinner.
It restores the sacred worth you forgot you had.

This mission—
to seek, to save, to restore—
is still unfolding.
Still relentless.
Still reaching into trees, into stories, into hearts
to whisper the one truth that changes everything:

*You were never forgotten.
You are always the mission.*



REFLECTION PRAYER

Thank You for seeking me when I didn't even know I was lost. For seeing through the noise, the fear, the masks, and calling me by name. Come into the hidden places of my life. Restore what's been broken. Heal what's been wounded. Renew what's grown weary. Remind me that I was never beyond Your reach, never beyond Your love. Let Your presence rewrite my story with grace, and let my life reflect the wonder of being found. Amen.

THE MISSION OF RECONCILIATION

2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-19

Years ago, Dr. Paul Bubna, the president of The Alliance at the time, structured an entire General Council around the theme of the glory of God. He preached a powerful message on the subject and invited Dr. John Piper to speak throughout the week. It was absolutely stunning for me to say the least! You see, for many years I had heard the Great Commission, to make disciples of all nations, as a bare command. The command struck my soul as a duty that burdened me like a job description from an employer. Don't get me wrong, I was totally engaged. But I lacked context. Paul and John permanently changed that for me! Suddenly I could see the wonder of God getting His greatest pleasure from glorifying His own name on the earth and inviting me to receive the greatest blessing by being part of that. No longer was the Great Commission merely workmanlike. It had become a pleasure.

That understanding and pleasure then integrated for me with the Apostle Paul's word to the Corinthians that the pursuit of the gospel to every nation is a wonderful matter of reconciliation to God and one another. Our mission is to be the Lord's humble servants, for Him to glorify Himself by building a heavenly family of children, women, and men who know Him and are bound together in freedom from sin and joy in relationship. And so, we go as commanded—not with reluctance, but with delight!



REFLECTION PRAYER

Great Father, thank You for engaging us in Your greatest pleasure as we glorify Your name through the gospel. Grant that we may hear Your word of command as the path to our own greatest pleasure in serving You. May there be every color of skin and language of tongue in our sights as we extend reconciliation to You and one another around the world, especially where Christ is little named or not named at all. Thank You for giving us a purpose that surpasses all others, both for time and eternity. Amen.

THE NEW CREATION IN JESUS

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Jesus is on mission, and He has invited us to partner with Him on that mission. Our role in His redemptive mission is to make disciples who make disciples. An essential part of being a disciple is understanding that each of us has been called by the Lord (see Rom. 8:28–30).

We have been called from, and we have been called to. The Apostle Paul poignantly makes this reality clear: “If we are in Christ, the old is gone; the new has come” (2 Cor. 5:17). Through the redemptive, regenerative, ongoing, and sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, the old things from the kingdom of darkness are gone, and we are called into the Kingdom of light. We have been called from slaves to the sinful nature into freedom in Christ—from being objects of God’s wrath to citizens of God’s Kingdom.

The list of what we have been called from and what we have been called to is long and beautiful. It boils down to an issue of identity—who I was and who I am. May we continually walk in victory over the old things that we have been called from and live joyfully and abundantly in the new things that we have been called to. It is from that place, our calling into a new identity, that we most effectively partner with our Savior in the message and ministry of reconciliation as His ambassadors (see 2 Cor. 5:18–20).



REFLECTION PRAYER

Lord, we are humbled that You would graciously call us to Yourself. We are grateful for the things that You have called us from. Holy Spirit, we ask that You would divinely enable us to live into all that You have called us to. As citizens in Your Kingdom, may we be useful instruments in Your hands for the accomplishment of Your redemptive purposes in our homes, our neighborhoods, our communities, and around the globe. Amen.

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH RENEWAL OF MIND

ROMANS 12:2

Transformation starts not with our actions, but within our minds. The Apostle Paul encourages us to resist the influences of the world's values, patterns, and priorities. Rather than conforming, we are called to stand out in holiness, not defiance.

This renewal is not a one-time incident; it's a daily journey. As we surrender our thoughts to God and allow His Word to shape our understanding, we begin to view life through His perspective. Our desires change, our responses mature, and our choices align more closely with His heart.

While the world advises, "Follow your heart," God instructs us to "Renew [our] minds." Why? Because a mind renewed by the Spirit becomes fertile ground for transformation. From this transformation arises a life that discerns God's will, which is good, pleasing, and perfect.

So, today, take a moment to reflect. What influences are shaping your thoughts? Are you absorbing more of the culture or more of Christ?

Brothers and sisters, allow the Word to wash over you, invite the Spirit to work within you, and let transformation begin from the inside out.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I come before You with an open heart and mind. Your Word calls me for a life transformed by Your truth. Let Your Spirit constantly shape my thoughts so that my life mirrors the transformation You have initiated within me. Teach me to examine and discern Your will. Let transformation be my daily pursuit. Help me walk confidently on the path You have set before me. Make me a living testimony of Your grace and power to change lives through the renewing work of Your Spirit.

In Jesus' mighty name, I pray, amen.

REVEALING THE HOPE OF GLORY

COLOSSIANS 1:26-27

In his letter to the Colossians, Paul uses a particular word—“mystery”—to describe the gift of the Holy Spirit to all who would repent and believe. This mystery spoken of by Paul is “Christ in you”—the indwelling of His Holy Spirit. This gift of the Holy Spirit given to us today was a mystery to those of the Old Testament—but now, living after the Resurrection of Christ and in the light of the promise of His return, we have the Holy Spirit, who is for us constant companionship (see John 14:16–17), a seal for the day of redemption (see Eph. 4:30), the guarantee of our complete sanctification through Christ (see Phil. 1:6), and “glorious riches” according to Paul in these verses.

Not only is Christ in us a blessed mystery, but to have Him is to possess glorious riches. The gift, the seal, the promise of the Holy Spirit is of surpassing value, incomparable to the wealth, fortune, and luxury of this world. For to gain Christ—to obtain more and more and more of God—is our greatest good. Glory unto Him is the end goal of this indwelling of His Spirit because it instills in us ultimate hope. Because to have Him is to have the most glorious thing; to have His love is to know the most glorious love; to see Him is to see the most glorious beauty; to possess His Spirit is to know what it is to be gloriously rich.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Glorious God, thank You for building Your home in us, Your living temple, and that by doing so, You also build in us the hope of glory. This glory does not only ascribe to You the praise and adoration You deserve, but it places us in goodness, gazing upon Your glorious beauty and power forever. Glorify Yourself in and through our lives, dear Lord, and fill us daily with a greater and greater desire and surrender to be given up to You as our only hope and joy. In Jesus' name, amen.

DRAWING US BACK TO THE FATHER

JOHN 14:6

There are few things as reassuring as knowing you have a safe place to call home. In John 14, Jesus promised His disciples that He was preparing a heavenly home for them. This home would be a place where they would find true rest in the presence of their Father. But Thomas had doubts about this new home. Where was it located? How would the disciples get there? It was against this backdrop that we read Jesus' powerful words in John 14:6. Not only would He show them how to get there, He, Himself, was the actual way there.

As we consider the theme of Christ and His Mission, we must remember the scope of John's statement. John 14:6 is often used to guide people toward the exclusive nature of Jesus' offering of salvation. However, Jesus did not speak these words to the unbelieving masses, but instead to His inquiring disciples. Amid the trials and tribulations that come with the grind of ministry, Jesus reminded them that the rest and peace that their hearts longed for could only come through Him.

If you are wearied by the weight of God's assignment, remember Jesus' words. To experience the joy and peace that comes in the presence of the Father, you must go through Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life. He has prepared a place of promised rest for you—one that can be experienced both now and in your future home in glory.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

When I am wearied by the weight of the world's problems, please remind me that Jesus is the way into Your peaceful presence. As I combat the confusion that clouds the hearts of the lost, please remind me that Jesus is the truth that sets man's heart free. And as I am sapped by the demands of carrying the gospel to the ends of the earth, please remind me that Jesus is the life that brings renewal to my soul. How I long for the peace and rest that comes through the presence of Christ! Amen.

JESUS OUR GOOD SHEPHERD

JOHN 10:11

Have you ever noticed how John invites us to “lean in” when He recorded the “I am” statements of Jesus? It’s like he took an ancient highlighter to Scripture to say, “Pay attention to what follows.”

One of those statements is our focus today—Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

In the same breath as that statement, Jesus uttered, “I lay down my life for my sheep.” A good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep. Great—if I want to shepherd well, I should lay down my life.

But that’s not the weight of this statement, is it? The weight is that Jesus, our Good Shepherd, willingly lays down His life for our sakes.

Jesus has laid down His life for you. He guards the pen, watches the horizon for danger, and gently guides and shepherds you as a cherished sheep of His flock. It was handed down by the Father to Him to shepherd well, and He is bringing more sheep and more pens together, for He cares for them too.

Do you trust Jesus with the responsibility of your life? Do you believe He guards the pen you reside in and watches the horizon for danger? Do you believe He knows best for your care and shepherds your life for its good? Do you believe He knows best the times to go out and the times to come in?



REFLECTION PRAYER

Father, too often I try to emulate the example of Jesus before I understand the reality of Jesus—that I am under His loving care, shepherded well by One who has authority and power and wisdom. Help me enter into the rest of my loving Shepherd, help me to discern His voice, and help me surrender to His love today. Thank You for my Good Shepherd. And thank You for guiding me into His care. Amen.