

PALM SUNDAY

BIBLE READING DAY 43, SUNDAY: APRIL 10

**Jesus Prays for His Disciples**

*John 17:1–26*

*Having said these things, Jesus raised his eyes toward heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come! Glorify your Son, that the Son may glorify you. For you have given him authority over all humanity, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I have glorified you on earth and have finished the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory I shared with you before the creation of the world.*

*“I have made your name known to the men whom you have given me out of the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have been faithful to your word. They know, now, that all the things you have given me are from you, for I have given them the words you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know for certain that I came forth from you. They have believed that you sent me.*

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*“We must remember that the shortest distance between our problems and their solutions is the distance between our knees and the floor.”*

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Charles F. Stanley,

*Handle with Prayer: Unwrap the Source  
of God’s Strength for Living*

*“I pray for them. I do not pray for the world, but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All who are mine are yours, and all who are yours are mine, and I am glorified through them. I will no longer be in the world; they will be in the world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name which you have given me, that they may be one, just as we*

*are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name which you have given me. I have guarded them faithfully, and not one of them has been lost except the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now, I am coming to you, and I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may fully share my joy. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through the truth. Your word is truth. Just as you sent me into the world, so have I sent them into the world. And for their sake I sanctify myself, that they too may be sanctified through the truth.*

*“I do not pray only for these, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one—just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you; that they too may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have shared with them the glory which you gave me, that they may be one, just as we are one—I in them, and you in me—that they may be brought into perfect union, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you have loved them as you have loved me.*

*“Father, I desire that those whom you have given me may be with me where I am, that they may see my glory which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world has not known you! But I have known you, and these have known that you have sent me. I have made your name known to them, and will make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”*

**Praying in Gethsemane, Matthew 26:36–46 (Mark 14:32-42, Luke 22:39-46)**

*Then Jesus came with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane and said to them, “Sit here, while I go yonder and pray.”*

*And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee. And he began to be sorrowful and troubled, and said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”*

*And he went on a little farther, and fell on his face and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”*

*And he came to the disciples and found them asleep, and said to Peter, “What! could you not keep watch with me for even an hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*

*Again a second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”*

*And he came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy. And he left them and went away again and prayed a third time, saying the same words again. Then he came to the disciples and said, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us go. Behold, my betrayer is at hand.”*

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*“There are many days when I cannot wait to get home and be alone with the Father. I am eager to leave behind all the stresses and decisions, change out of my suit and tie, go into my prayer closet, open God’s Word, and relax in His loving arms. Many times I don’t need to say a word. I simply want to hear from the Lord, experiencing His peaceful wisdom and loving presence. There is nothing better in life than just being with Him.”*

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Charles F. Stanley  
(*The Ultimate Conversation*)

Approximate Timeline of Jesus’s Public Ministry														
EARLY LIFE	EARLY MINISTRY	FIRST PASS-OVER	SUMMER	FIRST BOOTHS	WINTER	SECOND PASS-OVER	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	FINAL PASS-OVER

## DEVOTIONAL DAY 43 (SUNDAY APRIL 10)

### The Mysterious Prayer Warrior

*Based on John 17:1–26*

Who and why has someone been praying for me? What motivated them to put me on “their” prayer list? Perhaps they saw me as someone who needed all the help I could get just to make it through life. After all, I was somewhat of a hard case growing up. I am not talking about the family member or friend offering to pray for me when they discover I am going through a challenging time. I am talking about the individual who prays for me and my family consistently and often.

I have been thinking about this mysterious prayer warrior more and more recently. Two individuals always come to mind, but I have not asked them if I am on their prayer list. It’s as if I do not want to ruin a good thing by asking. It’s like the old saying, “don’t look a gift horse in the mouth”. Yet, a part of me wants to know so I can offer them my gratitude for their prayers. Then again, what if I ask them only to discover they have never prayed for me. That certainly would create an awkward situation. It would be nice to thank God for these prayer warriors by name, but the real thanks and praise goes to God for hearing and answering their prayers.

Perhaps it is a better use of my time to be thankful to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for the prayers He lifted up for me and continues to lift up to this very day. I am blessed every time I read Jesus’s prayer in the seventeenth chapter of John and specifically, John 17:20, “*My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message*”. The Holy Spirit is actively and deeply praying for us even while we struggle with what to pray for. Romans 8:26-27 says, “*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express*”. These are examples of our greatest Prayer Warrior praying openly for us and there are other examples in Scripture of Jesus being a mysterious Prayer Warrior as well.

I remember a sermon preached on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013 titled, “The Mystery Man”. The sermon cited several passages of our greatest Prayer Warrior and His prayer life (see opposite page)

I like the aspect of a mysterious prayer warrior praying for me. I am thankful to God for giving us prayer as way to stay spiritually connected (fellowship with God). I am thankful for God’s Holy Scripture and the examples of Jesus as our greatest Prayer Warrior. My father-in-law, a humble Christ follower and one of the wisest men I have ever met, had a mysterious way about him whenever he prayed during mealtime. He would voice a prayer of thankfulness and then after his Amen, he would quietly sit with his head bowed silently praying for a brief moment. I often wondered, and discovered later that others were also wondering, what he was praying. We have to wait to see him in heaven to solve the mystery.

There is nothing mysterious about our prayer meeting on Wednesday evening at First Baptist Church. It is simply a group of Christ followers praying to God through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is a great place to follow Jesus’ example of praying for others. Whether it is Wednesday evening prayer meeting, early in the morning, on a mountainside or going into your room and closing the door, you will be blessed by God when you pray. The mysterious prayer warriors praying for me will be revealed one day. Until then, I’ll remain thankful to my Lord and Savior for teaching us how to pray, for hearing prayer and for answering prayer.

**Heavenly Father, Thank You for giving us prayer as way to fellowship with You and stay spiritually connected. Thank You for Your Holy Scripture and the examples of Jesus, our greatest Prayer Warrior. Teach me to be joyful always, pray continually and give thanks in all circumstances. Bring specific individuals to my mind so that I become a prayer warrior for them. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

--By Lee Stockland

**WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS IN RESPONSE TO WHAT YOU HAVE READ:**

**WHAT DID GOD SAY TO ME?**

**PRAYER: WHAT DID I SAY TO GOD?**

**ACTS OF PRAYER: ADORATION, CONFESSION, THANKSGIVING, SUPPLICATION (How God Can Supply Needs**

**A**

**C**

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**S**

**Mark 1:35** *Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.*

**Mark 6:46** *After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray.*

**Luke 5:16** *But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.*

**Luke 6:12** *One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.*

**Matthew 6:6** *But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

**Ephesians 3:14-17** *For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup>I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup>so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup>may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup>and to know this love that surpasses knowledge; that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*