




A Praying
CHURCH

21 DAYS OF PRAYER
IN PREPARATION FOR EASTER





Prayer is a two-way conversation. We hear from the Lord through His Word and His People, and then we respond to Him with pleas, intercessions, requests, and thanksgiving. Each day of prayer, you will have a short reading of Scripture and then a prayer prompt to pray and focus on for the day.

Do you remember when Peter preached at Pentecost, and 3,000 people were cut to the heart, and gave their life to Jesus? Imagine if that happened again at Easter on the Square? We are praying for God to move among us and for many people to believe and be baptized on Easter Sunday!

Monday, March 31st

One of the things I truly enjoy is bird hunting over dogs. It is an elegant sport that is a real treat to experience. However, quail hunting can be and often is a humbling experience. These small birds can challenge experts and will frustrate to no ends the mediocre shotgunner, of which I am the latter!

I recently had the opportunity to do some upland bird hunting at different lodges with different friends that provided contrasting experiences. On the first hunt my friend (who is an outstanding shot) and I noticed the lodge was filled with distinguished looking men all attired in the latest gear neatly pressed, looking like they had stepped out of an Orvis catalog. They looked like bird hunters and had the gear of bird hunters but according to one of their guides, couldn't hit birds. On the second hunt, at a different location, it was just me and two friends. I knew these guys were experienced quail aficionados and bore well-worn gear that had seen many days in the south Texas brush country. Rather than merely looking like bird hunters, they lived it. Their guns and gear were a reflection of time invested rather than simply money spent to make a fashion statement. As you can imagine, they could shoot!

What I learned from these two accounts is that having all the right gear and even being in the right environment won't make you a quail hunter any more than spending time in a garage will make you a car. What it takes is an investment of time and discipline.

We don't become people of prayer and spiritual depth by having devotional books and hanging out at church. It takes an investment of time and spiritual discipline if we are to grow into Christlikeness. A well-worn Bible, time spent with the Lord, and evident character are better indicators of a life spent with Jesus than mere appearance. I am asking that for the next twenty days you invest time and be disciplined to pray so that we would be, rather than appear to be, the real deal.

In Christ,
John

Lord, I am easily captivated and deceived by outward appearances. Would you bear good fruit in my life as I trust in you to change my life and the lives of others. Lord, would you give me the discipline I need to pray for my own heart and share Christ with those in Boerne who do not yet know you. Amen.

Tuesday, April 1st READ DANIEL 9

Prayers for Currey Creek

Lord, we, like the people of Israel, often go astray from worshipping you. We too have done the things you asked us not to, and not done the things you have asked of us. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name. Help us, as Currey Creek Church to worship you with all our hearts, souls, mind, and strength. Prepare us to engage the lost well this Easter season.

Prayers for Myself

Lord, what sin might I need to confess today that is hindering me from worshipping and obeying you completely? Create a clean heart in me O Lord and renew a right spirit within me. Help me to love you with all my heart, soul, mind and strength. God increase my love for the lost and show me who is my one that you are calling me to invest in and invite into the Kingdom of God.

Wednesday, April 2nd READ REVELATION 2:1-7

Prayers for Currey Creek

Lord, help us to recapture the love we had at first. Help us to repent and do the deeds we did at first. May we as a church not be content with simply knowing correct theology. Help us to love and obey you. May we as a church set aside our busyness to simply sit at your feet and delight in you today. May our love for you move us to engage the lost.

Prayers for Myself

Lord, would you show me where my love for you has grown cold? Show me where I am just going through the motions. Would you remind me of the day that you changed my life? God make me passionate for your glory and help me to recapture the simple delight of telling people how you've changed my life. Lord, give me an opportunity to invite someone into the joy of knowing and following you today?

Thursday, April 3rd READ MARK 4:1-20

Prayers for Currey Creek

God, give us ears that hear, eyes that see, a mind that comprehends, a heart that purposes to do your will, and hands willing and ready to receive what you have for us today. Lord, may Satan, trials and tribulations, the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches not snatch away your Word from our hearts. Instead, may we hear the word, understand it, and may it bear fruit in our lives. Help us not to keep your Word to ourselves, but share it with everyone we know.

Prayers for Myself

Lord, would you prepare my heart and mind to receive your Word each day of my life. Lord, may the busyness of the day, the urgency of notifications, disappointment nor entertainment steal from what you want to do in my heart. God, I pray for my One who will hear your Gospel preached on Easter. Please guard my One from any distractions that would try to steal the Word from their heart and mind. May your Word bear fruit in their lives.

Friday, April 4th READ ROMANS 1:1-16

Prayers for Currey Creek

God, would Currey Creek Church imitate the Apostle Paul in his zeal for the Gospel. We want to be obligated to share, eager to share, and unashamed to share the Gospel with our neighbors, co-workers, family members and all who we encounter. Help us be so passionate about the worship of Jesus that we can't help but speak to what He has done on our behalf.

Prayers for Myself

God, would you change my heart to feel obligated to obey your command to make disciples, eager to see you work in the lives of unbelievers, and unashamed to identify with Christ and proclaim the good news to those around us. Lord, for all who come to faith at Easter, would they in turn be disciples who are obligated, eager and unashamed.

Saturday, April 5th READ EPHESIANS 3

Prayers for Currey Creek

Father, help us to display the manifold wisdom of God to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. Help us as the church to both suffer well and pray for those in the global church who are suffering for the sake of Christ. God, would you move at Easter in Boerne more powerfully than we could ever ask or imagine.

Prayers for Myself

Spirit, help me, though the least of all the saints, to proclaim the Gospel to all people what are the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God. If there is anything that is hindering me from effectively proclaiming the Good News, would you remove it from my life.

Sunday, April 6th READ MATTHEW 21:12-17

Prayers for Currey Creek

God, thank you that you were zealous for the purity of the Temple worship, and for access of all people to worship regardless of their economic status. Lord Jesus, would you purify the worship at Currey Creek Church. Would you cleanse us from anything that would be a hindrance to people coming and worshipping you as the One, True God. Jesus, help Currey Creek to be a place where peoples from all nations may come and worship.

Prayers for Myself

Lord, you have made me a temple of the living God (I Corinthians 3:16). Would you convict me of any unrighteousness in me that is hindering my worship of you or is leading others astray from a right worship of you. Please help me walk in holiness and righteousness today, so that people may see my good works and give glory to my Father in heaven.



Monday, April 7th

As we approach Easter, I want to encourage you to experience it to the fullest. In John 4 we read the story of the woman of Samaria's encounter with Jesus. You may recall that Jesus openly shared with her that he was the Messiah. After hearing this fantastic news, she went back into her town, a place where her not so great reputation was well known and told the people there of her encounter with Jesus. C.S Lewis wrote, "I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation. It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are; the delight is incomplete till it is expressed. It is frustrating to have discovered a new author and not to be able to tell anyone how good he is; to come suddenly, at the turn of the road, upon some mountain valley of unexpected grandeur and then to have to keep silent...; to hear a good joke and find no one to share it with.... The Scotch catechism says that man's chief end is 'to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.' Fully to enjoy is to glorify. In commanding us to glorify Him, God is inviting us to enjoy Him."¹

Do you find yourself having the same enthusiasm as this woman of Samaria? What if our lack of enthusiasm, perhaps even boredom we sometimes experience in our faith is actually God attempting to get our attention by "...alerting us to the absence of his mission?"² Have we started to live as if God has saved us but doesn't intend to include us in the joyful work of anyone else's salvation story? "Have we become discouraged along the way and stopped participating at a personal level in the Great Commission?"³

A remedy would be for you to tell someone about what Christ has done for you! Invite someone to Easter in Boerne and let them hear the gospel! We encourage you to invest in Holy Week and in Easter in Boerne personally and invite others to share in your joy and in doing so complete the enjoyment!

In Christ,
John

*Lord, may I draw closer to you this week and experience the joy of your presence!
May I out of the overflow of my heart share the good news and invite others to hear
and experience the gospel. Amen.*

¹C.S. Lewis, *Reflections on the Psalms*. ²Adam Ramsey, "The Fields Are White Unto Harvest," acts29.com, June 5, 2022. ³Ibid.

Tuesday, April 8th READ ACTS 8

Prayers for Currey Creek

Holy Spirit, would you help Currey Creek Church to be attentive to your leading. Please help us to follow you, even when it doesn't make sense. Lord help Currey Creek Church be willing to leave the comfort of the crowd to go after the one. Lord, help us to be faithful to proclaim the gospel to our one... perhaps you have a whole nation in mind.

Prayers for Myself

Holy Spirit, attune my heart to seek your voice, and my ears to be attentive to your voice. Help me to follow you to unexpected places today, and to be ready for the Divine encounters you may have for me today with individuals who want to know you but need someone to teach them about you. God, would you save my one, today?

Wednesday, April 9th READ 1 KINGS 8:54-61

Prayers for Currey Creek

Father, we, like the people of Israel in the Old Testament, have entered your rest (Hebrews 4). We praise you not only for this, but also that you will complete all you have promised, that not one word will fail. Lord, please be with us for Easter in Boerne, incline our hearts to you, and through Easter in Boerne would all the peoples of the earth know that you Lord, are God and there is no other.

Prayers for Myself

Father, help me to surrender all the plans and expectations to you as King Solomon did at the dedication of the Temple. I want my heart to enter your rest, and my lips to offer you continual praise. Please use me to advance your Kingdom at Easter in Boerne that peoples from all different backgrounds would hear and surrender to the Gospel message.

WEEK TWO

Thursday, April 10th READ ACTS 2

Prayers for Currey Creek

Lord, would we proclaim the Gospel with the same fervor and boldness as Peter did when He preached at Pentecost. Jesus would the Gospel cut to the heart of every person who is at Easter in Boerne. Would we as the gathered Body of Believers celebrate the transformation and baptism of every lost person who comes to Easter on the Square.

Prayers for Myself

God, would you help me to be devoted to the teaching of your Word, being in fellowship with believers, to the breaking of bread, and prayer. Would my life be a witness to those around me and through my life would new believers be added to our fellowship day by day.

Friday, April 11th READ LUKE 5:17-26

Prayers for Currey Creek

Jesus would Currey Creek be filled with believers who are willing to go to extraordinary lengths to bring their friends to Jesus to be forgiven of their sins. God would we be conduits by which people are able to receive your healing and restoration.

Prayers for Myself

God, I believe that you are the same today as you were when you called a paralyzed man to rise and walk. I believe that you are the only One able to forgive my sins. Would you heal and forgive my One? God, please use Easter in Boerne to be the place and the time that many are healed both physically and spiritually.

Saturday, April 12th READ EXODUS 33

Prayers for Currey Creek

Lord, we like the people of Israel recognize that if you don't go ahead of us and with us, it would be disastrous. We pray like Moses, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?" Lord as we gather for Easter in Boerne, may your presence get the recognition and glory.

Prayers for Myself

God, in the same way that you told Moses that all your goodness would pass before him and will proclaim before him your name "The Lord," would you be gracious to whom you will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom you will show mercy; would you do the same for me?



Sunday, April 13th READ JOHN 12:12-19

In 1989 Texas businessman Clayton Williams decided to run for Governor of the State of Texas. Williams was the Republican candidate and by all appearances the favorite to win the election. Williams had a twenty percent lead over the Democratic candidate, Ann Richards, and was a shoe in for governor heading into the fall election. In March of 1990, Williams was hosting a group of reporters attending a roping event at his ranch outside of Midland. The weather was bad that particular day and the reporters were getting restless. When one of William's aides informed him of the situation, Williams made a vulgar comment comparing the bad weather to rape. The despicable comment was printed in newspapers across the state and ended up making national news. Overnight, Williams went from hero to villain. The public's opinion of Clayton Williams' disgusting comment was soon reflected in public opinion polls. What was once a forgone conclusion turned into an all-out battle for the state's highest office. Williams' lead over Richards soon evaporated and he ended up losing the Governor's election.

Jesus' popularity was at an all-time high as he made his way to Jerusalem that Sunday. Messianic expectations were high as the crowds ran out to greet Jesus crying, "Hosanna!" Yet, in a mere five days many in that crowd were now shouting, "Crucify him!" Unlike Clayton Williams, Jesus had not made a stupid comment, nor had he made a political blunder. In fact, his lack of a political agenda contributed to his death. Jesus did not meet the expectations of many in the crowds that followed him. As soon as those people's expectations were not met, they had no need of Jesus Christ. In fact, their disappointment turned to hatred and rejection.

Perhaps you are experiencing disappointment in your walk with Jesus. He has not met your expectations. He has not come through in the way you want. I understand. More importantly, Jesus does. In the Old Testament book of Job, Job replied to his wife, "Shall we accept only good from the Lord and not trouble?" Job's wife had a philosophy that all of life should be pleasant and if it was not, then perhaps it wasn't worth living. We often

think we know best and that if God would get on our agenda, all would be good. We think, like Job's wife, that the highest goal in life is pleasantness as defined by us! The people of Jesus' day thought the best thing for them would be a political messiah when in reality what they needed was a suffering, substitutional Messiah. God in his grace knows what I need even when, especially when, I don't see it! I know I can be like the crowd of Jesus' day. I want him to meet my expectations. Yet time and time again, God shows me that what I really need is his sovereign grace. Take time to reflect on your expectations of Jesus. How do those expectations line up with God's will as revealed in the scriptures? Have you put an artificial timeline on those expectations? Our enemy, Satan, wants us to live disappointed lives. Jesus has come that we might have life to the fullest! Will you, by faith, trust the Lord to bring about what is best for you?

May the Lord speak truth to your heart as you focus on him this week.

In Christ,
John



Lord, please forgive me for having worldly expectations of what I think you ought to do. Instead, give me your heart, your mind, and your desires for the hurting and lost around me. Amen.

Monday, April 14th READ JOHN 13:3-11; LUKE 22:24-27

Most of us as parents can recall a time when our kids were small and wanted to help us in some sort of activity. Maybe it was moving something heavy or doing some sort of work around the house. Sooner or later the words “me do” would appear. The child wanted to do whatever work it was by themselves. Now depending on the situation and the nature of the work it may not be appropriate to allow the child to even try it on their own. But, in certain situations allowing them to try and even fail is not a bad idea. We watch them try again and again. We watch them struggle, get frustrated, make a mess, struggle, try again. You get the point. Finally, if they aren’t too hard-headed, they will relent and admit they cannot do it on their own. Come to think of it, this pattern repeats itself again and again as we get older. Sometimes the lesson is never learned.

In our Bible passage, Jesus is in the upper room with his disciples. At one point in the evening Jesus rises from the table and removes his outer garments replacing them with a towel which he wraps around his waist. He pours water into a basin and begins to wash the disciple’s feet. The Incarnate God of the universe, their creator, their master, washes their feet like a house servant would. We hear no objection from the disciples until we come to Peter. The same Peter that walked on water at Jesus’ invitation, that confessed Christ as Lord and the Son of God, the one that was with Jesus as his veiled glory was suddenly unveiled! Peter would have none of it! Jesus was too great to serve! Jesus politely told Peter that he was incapable of understanding what he was doing at the time. Jesus was wanting to not only serve Peter, but also teach Peter a valuable lesson that Peter would understand in time. Maybe Peter was embarrassed by Jesus taking on the role of a servant, maybe his pride got the best of him, but in effect Peter tells Jesus, “me do.” Jesus replies bluntly that if Peter does not submit to Jesus’ service, Peter could have no part in him. When it was revealed to Peter that apart from Christ’s service Peter could not share in Christ, Peter blurts out that he wants to be washed all over.

In our pride we tell Jesus “me do.” We want to be good enough for him. We don’t want his help, his serving us in humility. Yet this is exactly our need and what the cross teaches us. Not only does the cross teach us that we aren’t good enough, it strikes at our pride by demonstrating we can never be good enough. The cross teaches us that the incarnate God humbles himself and does for us what we cannot do for ourselves. The cross teaches us that apart from its cleansing power we remain stained by sin, unclean. The cross teaches us that if we do not submit to Christ’s humiliation by humbling ourselves before him that we will have no share in him.

Have you submitted your life to the cross of Jesus Christ? Have you let the King of kings and Lord of lords serve you by being your substitute? As long as we persist in trying to save ourselves, we will be separated from God’s saving grace. But, O glorious thought! When we come to Jesus and allow him, and him alone to save us from our sin, we receive his super abundant grace that cleanses and continues to cleanse us from every sin.

May the Lord teach you about his service to you this week as you focus on Christ.

In Christ,
John



Lord please forgive me when I act as if I am able to live this Christian life on my own. Help me instead to abide in you. Lead me, Lord, to share the good news of your working on our behalf with others this week. Amen.

Tuesday, April 15th

READ EXODUS 12:1-28; LUKE 22:7-20; 1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-28

Countries are known to have some pretty bizarre traditions. For instance, in Finland they have an annual competition in which a husband carries his wife over an obstacle course. In Denmark, if you are twenty-five or older and single, people throw cinnamon at you. As if dating weren't hard enough! Here in the USA we have a tradition in which we let a rodent predict the future. I'll let you figure that one out on your own! Many of us have family traditions that are celebrated annually. It may be an anniversary, or Christmas, or some other holiday celebration. We wouldn't dream of changing these cherished traditions much less totally reinterpreting them, yet this is exactly what Jesus does with the Passover.

For about three thousand five hundred years orthodox Jews have been celebrating Passover. It is a meal taken as a family that commemorates God delivering his people from Egyptian slavery. About two thousand years ago, Jesus had gathered with his disciples in Jerusalem to take the Passover meal. As Jesus is reclining at a table, he takes the wine and divides it. He takes bread and distributes it. He then totally reinterprets what had been celebrated and commemorated for one thousand five hundred years! He said the bread that they had in their hands was representative of his body. He said the wine they had in their cup represented the new covenant to come about through his shed blood. What could all this mean? I'm not sure we can fully understand what must have been going through the disciples' minds at this point. "What is Jesus doing?" "That's not the way it is done!", "What has he done to our sacred tradition?" Jesus was actually explaining the Passover to them. He said in effect, "That sacrificial lamb God prescribed so long ago was a foreshadowing of me." "That blood on the doorposts and lintel is a foreshadowing of my death." "My Father will see my blood and His judgment that should fall on you for your sin will instead fall on me. In grace, he will pass over you."

As we think through what Jesus taught his disciples and what Paul taught the church regarding the Lord's supper, may our hearts be full and our minds stimulated by the richness and beauty of all that is being conveyed. The best of traditions point beyond themselves to a reality that transcends the repeated event. Therefore, let us not observe communion merely for the sake of repeating a tradition, for in so doing we will have lost communion with one another and the deeper significance of the meal. The observance of the Lord's Supper is a beautiful time of remembering what Christ has done for us, communing with one another, and proclaiming Jesus' death for the sins of the world.

May the Lord teach you the beauty and depth of his table as you focus on him this week.

In Christ,
John



Lord, please forgive me when communion becomes nothing more than a religious observance in my heart. As I enjoy communion with you and others, burden my heart for those who do not, and lead me to share the gospel that makes communion with you a possibility. Amen.

Wednesday, April 16th READ JOHN 13:31-35

The book of Malachi opens with God declaring that he loves his people Israel. In an astounding reply they answer, “How have you loved us?” How could Israel by any stretch of the imagination ask how God had loved them? Had they forgotten the exodus from Egypt? Had they forgotten God’s presence and provision during their wandering in the wilderness? The promised land? Prophets? If we are not careful, we can easily look right past how God has loved us too.

Jesus, in our passage, is giving his disciples a new commandment to love one another. He has already taught them they are to love God with all that they are, and they are to love their neighbor as themselves. What is new about this? What is new is the degree of love. Notice that Jesus states, “...just as I have loved you, you also must love one another.” The disciples are then forced to ask the question, “How has Jesus loved us?” Sounds a lot like the reply of the people in Malachi! Two people can ask the very same question but have different motives. One can ask the question for the purpose of gaining information while the other can just question. The disciples could have asked how Jesus had loved them so that they would then know how to love one another in like manner. So how had Jesus loved the disciples? He had taught them the truth of God. He had shown them how to have compassion. He had taught them what the Kingdom of heaven was like as well as many other things. What Jesus referred to in his instruction to the disciples was his servant love. The disciples were to serve one another in love. They were not to lord it over one another. They were not to wait and see who would serve them, they were to take the initiative and love one another through service. What would be the outcome of such loving service? The outcome would be proof positive that they belonged to Christ!

Brothers and sisters, when we love one another the way Jesus taught, it is a powerful testimony that we are like our Master. When we demonstrate that our loving service to one another is a reflection of Christ's love, others will be drawn to him! Perhaps you can create a list of how you have been loved by Christ and then purposefully love another like that. We are a loved people! May we be people who love.

In Christ,
John



Father, forgive me when I doubt or question your love for me. Please help me to see that you are always working for my good, even when I don't see it or understand. Lord, help me to share how you have demonstrated your love for the lost through Jesus' death on the cross.

Thursday, April 17th READ JOHN 13:37-39, 18:15-18; 25-27

It is widely accepted among people of all cultures that a traitor is to be abhorred. In American history there have been a number of traitors but none so infamous as Benedict Arnold. Arnold began his military career with the Continental Army and soon distinguished himself with the capture of Fort Ticonderoga. Arnold was awarded command of the fort at West Point, NY, now the home of the U.S. Military Academy. But by this time Arnold had become disillusioned and disappointed that he had been passed over for advancement by his superiors. Through secret negotiations he had agreed to give the fort over to the British as well as reveal troop positions of the Continental Army. He defected to the British before his plans were discovered. While with the British, he captured Richmond, Virginia and pillaged the surrounding area. When Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, Arnold fled to England to escape prosecution. So dastardly were his deeds that Benjamin Franklin compared him to none other than Judas Iscariot.

When I read of Peter's denial of Jesus, I have a visceral response. It makes me sick to my stomach. I'm simultaneously disappointed in Peter, grieved for Jesus, and fearful of my own response had I been in Peter's place. Peter had been with Jesus, done the miraculous with Jesus, been loved and taught by Jesus, yet in the moment of testing had failed. When the two of them made eye contact (Luke 22:61), I feel the hurt both of them must have experienced. But where I linger most in this story is my own response. I want to believe I would have done better. I want to believe that in that moment my faith and courage would have been strong, and I would have followed Jesus all the way through. Yet deep down, in a place I don't want to go, I know I could have, probably would have, done the same. How could I? Jesus has loved me when I was his enemy. He loved me when I failed again and again as his disciple. He remained faithful when I was faithless. How then could I deny him? Indeed, the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

After his betrayal of Jesus, Peter wept bitterly. It crushed his heart to know what he had done to his Lord and Savior. Have you come to grips with your own potential or actual betrayal of Jesus? Have you not spoken up when you should have for fear of being ridiculed? Have you ever acted in an un-Christ-like manner? Has there ever been a time when you have denied Christ in word or deed? Have you grieved over your actions? I'm not sure how Peter would have fared as an apostle had not Christ come to him and forgiven him and restored him. But we do know Jesus did just that! (John 21:15-17) He will do the same for you. Simply come confessing and repenting. You will find the grace of our Lord is indeed deeper and wider than you could have imagined.

In Christ,
John



Lord Jesus, thank you for your tenderness in the midst of our betrayal. Thank you for forgiving us. Thank you for restoring us. Thank you for equipping us to be your witnesses. Encourage our hearts, steel our will, fit us for heaven, O Lord. Lord help me to share with others how even though they are your enemy now, they can become your child. Amen.

Friday, April 18th

READ MATTHEW 27:24-51; MARK 15:21-47; LUKE 23:26-43; JOHN 19

We live in a political climate today where each political party accuses the other as having committed crimes. These crimes are described as being so heinous that the “...very fabric of our Constitution is in jeopardy.” These crimes are described in terms that would lead you to think our republic is on the brink of disaster. We have heard congressional leaders cry wolf so often that the general public is indifferent to the hyperbole. While Congress postures itself, real murders fill our streets. Women and girls are trafficked while our elected officials are engaged in petty arguments that look more like a junior high food fight than anything substantive. The tragedy is that we have been bombarded with so much sound and fury that we have become calloused to the real crime.

In the story of Jesus’ crucifixion, we see not only the hatred of the Jewish hierarchy toward Jesus, but also the manipulation of the current political situation. We see a real insurrectionist go free at the expense of the innocent. We see those who know the truth refuse to act in an honorable way. We see the powerful descend into the dark world of sadistic brutality for the sake of expediency. We see a total miscarriage of justice. We see all these things, and rightly so. But do we see the real crime? Do we see ourselves as guilty and Jesus taking our place?

It is easy to sit back in our comfortable homes and pronounce condemnations on those of Jesus’ day while enjoying our coffee. To be sure there is plenty of condemnation to go around! A song written by Johnny Cash asked, “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” A better question would be, “Did I have a part in the crucifixion of the Lord?” Until we see ourselves as sinners complicit in the death of Jesus, we will never know the depth of evil in our own hearts. Until we see Jesus Christ as our substitute, we will

never know the depth of his love for sinners like us. Until we see that the justice of God was satisfied by the substitutionary death of Jesus, we will carry around our guilt and never know the freedom of forgiveness. It is at the cross of Christ, that one point in history where evil, love, justice, and forgiveness come together. It is in the cross of Jesus Christ that the evil in our hearts was conquered. The cross of Christ is where the love of God for a lost world is not only displayed but comes forth victorious! The cross of Christ is where the righteous judgment of a Holy God was meted out on His Son. The cross of Christ becomes the very means by which our eternal forgiveness is possible and fulfilled!

Have you considered the implications of the cross of Jesus Christ for you personally? If you would like to know more about what it means to follow Jesus, please contact one of the pastors at Currey Creek.

In Christ,
John



Lord Jesus, I confess that it is my sin, my guilt, my shame, and my place that you took on the cross. In you I have forgiveness, cleansing, and new life! Guide me, Lord, to share that good news with someone who does not know. Amen.

Saturday, April 19th READ JOHN 16:16-33

Chapters 14-17 of John's gospel are known as The Farewell Discourse. These teachings of Jesus are given to eleven of his disciples, Judas Iscariot has left the upper room and headed out to betray Christ. In our passage Jesus is talking about how there will come a time when the disciples will not be able to see Jesus for he will be in the tomb. He plainly tells them that while he is away, they will have sorrow. But there will come a time when they will see him again and their terrible grief will turn into a joy that cannot be taken away! Jesus uses the illustration of a woman going through labor and delivery to make his point. Jesus goes on to tell them, very plainly, that they will have tribulation in the world. Yet, they are to take heart for he has overcome the world.

Having wrestled with the truly hard reality of our complicity in the cross of Jesus, when we read this text our hearts gladden. Jesus is preparing his disciples ahead of time for the hard times that they will encounter. He tells them plainly that they will have trouble. No sugar-coating the truth. No false ideas about a utopian situation where the disciples are heralded and revered. No beating around the bush in regards to having the favor of the world. They WILL have trouble! But that trouble will not defeat them. Trouble will not overwhelm or overcome them. Rather, in Christ they too will overcome the world. What encouragement this must have been for the disciples on such a night laden with betrayal and hatred. Jesus tells them of the coming Spirit of God who will be their guide into all truth. He tells of their coming victory over the world. He will go on to pray for them where they will hear of their security in him, their being set apart in the truth, and their mission in the world. It is indeed a glorious time for these disciples on the cusp of great sorrow.

Jesus knew what you and I would face in his absence too. In fact, Jesus prays for us! He asks of his Father that the blessings directed at the disciples would be ours as well (John 17:20). Jesus knows that we too will have a sorrow that will turn to joy. He knows that in this world we will have trouble. He also exhorts us to take heart, for he has overcome the world! Friend, I don't know if you are having a difficult time or a time of great blessing. But this I do know, it will change. When it does, remember these words of Jesus and rejoice. Christ knew what you would experience. Christ knows your present situation. Christ will be with you through any future situation. Praise him!

Take time to thank God for his indescribable gift of Jesus.

In Christ,
John



*Lord, thank you for telling me the truth and promising to be with me!
Thank you for the promise of overcoming! Lord Jesus help me to share your
promises with the one who is downtrodden and without hope or help.
May the Gospel shine in their hearts and bring them peace. Amen.*

HE IS *Risen!*

Sunday, April 20th READ JOHN 20:1-29

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a home. He didn't go to college. He never visited a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies and went through

the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, his executioners gambled for His garments, the only property He had on earth. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave, through the pity of a friend. Nineteen centuries have come and gone and today He is the central figure of the human race. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that one solitary life.

“One Solitary Life,”

Dr. James Allan Francis

In D. James Kennedy and Jerry Newcombe's book *What If Jesus Had Never Been Born?* (Thomas Nelson, Nashville, TN, 1994) the authors explore the implications of a world without Jesus. However, without Jesus' resurrection from the dead, we would not have the testimony of the life of Jesus and certainly our world would not look like it does today.

If Jesus was never born, education would be radically different and widely unavailable to the masses. America's public school system is part of the legacy of Anglican evangelical

Robert Raikes (1725-1811) who was the key promoter of the Sunday School movement which sought to bring education to the poor. Nearly every one of the first 100 colleges and universities in America had Christian roots. There would be no Oxford in England, no Harvard, Yale, or Princeton in America just to name a few.

The world of the arts and literature would be diminished and robbed of many of its great inspirations had Jesus never been born. The Pieta by Michelangelo, and the Last Supper by DaVinci would not exist. There would be no grand architectural wonders like the cathedrals in Europe. There would be no majestic poems like *The Divine Comedy* by Dante, and *Paradise Lost* by Milton.

In the field of science, it was the Christian worldview that gave rise to scientific exploration and development. You see, it was the Christian worldview with its insistence on the rational order of the universe that gave rise to the scientific method.

It is this and much, much, more that enable us to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the resurrection of Jesus. A more personal approach is to ask, “What difference has the resurrection of Jesus made in my life?” Have you been eternally changed by Jesus? Have you considered the implications of the resurrection for yourself? May the Lord bless you richly as you consider and celebrate his resurrection from the dead. It has changed everything.

In Christ,
John

*Lord, may I glory in your resurrection! I praise you for raising me with you!
I shout Hallelujah! Lord move me with resurrection power to share the life
changing gospel with someone this week. Amen.*

EASTER WEEKEND CALENDAR



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES

Friday, April 18th • 5:00 & 6:30pm

PRAYER ON THE SQUARE

Saturday, April 19th • 10:30am

EASTER IN BOERNE

Sunday, April 20th • 9:30am

BAPTISMS ON THE SQUARE

Call the church office for more information and to meet with a pastor.



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35 Cascade Caverns Rd | Boerne, TX 78015 | 830.755.8806
curreycreek.com/easter