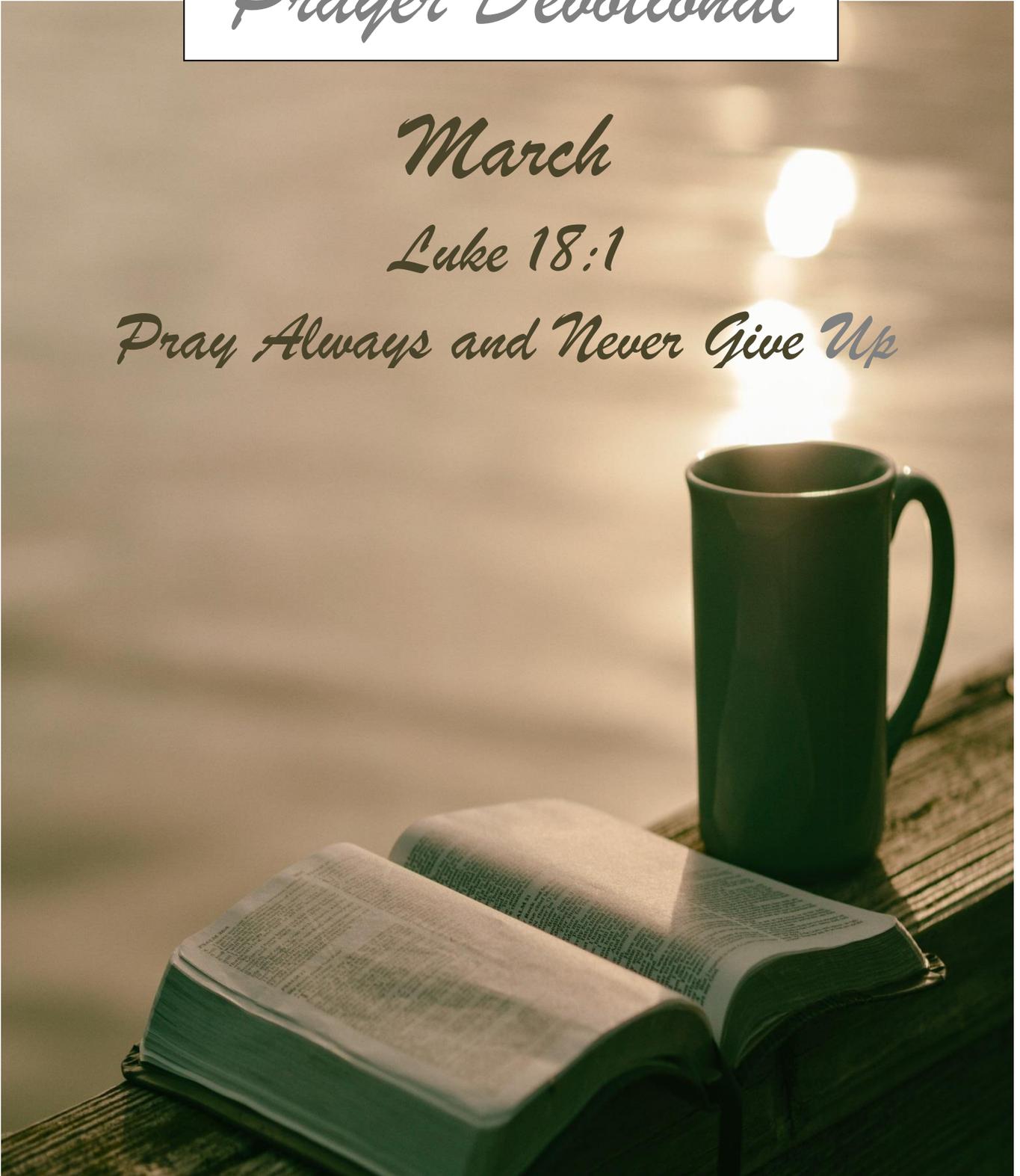


# *Prayer Devotional*

*March*

*Luke 18:1*

*Pray Always and Never Give Up*



## ***Prayer for Persecuted Church***

### **Pray for those in the midst of persecution**

*Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. Hebrews 13:3*

Global watchdog Open Doors reports that 322 Christians are killed every month for their faith while millions more suffer persecution on a routine basis.

Please pray that these believers will not only stay committed to the call of Christ but also will respond in love to the evil shown by their aggressors. God's love will open doors for these believers to share the Gospel even more.

This Month's Countries, these are some of the most dangerous countries to follow Jesus:

Pakistan

Sudan

Eritrea

**Daily prayers for March...** “To forgive is to set a prisoner free and to discover that the prisoner was you.” Lewis B. Smedes

**Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>:** One week ago our youth were inspired to become world-changers. As a church body, we should be covering them in prayer that they would fearlessly, fervently lay hold of the fire that was ignited within them and take it into their schools, their jobs, their families, and anywhere else they might have a voice. Pray they would not lose their passion, but instead it would grow in intensity and become exponentially contagious! As they conduct themselves as examples of true believers and followers of Jesus, we should all encourage them, listen to them, and be careful to not look down on them or discount what they say because of their youthfulness. Remember that Joseph was seventeen when he served in Potiphar’s house; Josiah was eight when he became king of Israel; David was a youth when he killed Goliath; Jesus was twelve when He first reasoned with the teachers in the temple! Affirm our youth, mentor them, value them, and praise God that He is doing a mighty work in the generation He is raising up. **1 Tim. 4:12; Jer. 1:4-8**

**Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Forgiveness is a big thing! We know that when we accept Jesus as Savior our sins are forgiven. The word for forgiveness is *aphesis* which means pardon, release, or letting them go as if they had not been committed. That’s huge. Now from God’s standpoint on how we should respond, imagine that you work for Bill Gates. You arrive for work late one day and take his parking spot, but he graciously lets it go. The next day a temp parks where you were going to park and you vehemently let him know it should have been your spot! Would Bill value your ethics? He may not fire you, but he’s not going to promote you either. When we treat lightly the grace and mercy we have received, God is not only disappointed in us, He is offended. Did we truly understand and value the magnitude of His pardon? Jesus is pretty blunt in His Sermon on the Mount when, just after

teaching how to pray, He states that if we do not forgive others, then our Father will not forgive our transgressions! Lord, we thank you for the unmerited, incomprehensible grace You have shown us in forgiving all of our offenses. Help us to never take it lightly and to extend that same mercy and release to others. **Ps. 103:10-14; Matt. 6:14-15; Col. 3:12-13**

**Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**: I wish life was easy. Wouldn't it be easier if there was no struggle, no conflict, and no stress in the world? Sure does seem like an ideal situation, but without some struggle in life, we don't grow, we don't learn about ourselves, and we don't learn how to make choices in life that are of God and not of the world. I don't think Jesus was sent into the wilderness to suffer. I think he was sent there to learn how to be faithful. It was not about punishment or testing, but about the need for some tension in order to become disciplined and intentional about one's faith. You too are sent into the world, not to be tested, not to suffer, but to live. In that living, you may find times when it will be difficult and choices will be hard to make. But always know that God, even in the struggle, is there. **Mark 1:12-13**

**Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**: In a discussion with a fellow believer on Isa (Jesus) in the Qur'an, this person vehemently stated that it's not the same Jesus. Now I know people who are avid fans of country singer Keith Urban. They can tell you his birth date, name all of his hit songs, and tell you all about his struggles with cocaine and overcoming the addiction. They know a lot about him, but Nicole Kidman knows him intimately as her husband. However, it would be ludicrous to assert that he's not the same person! The difference lies in the relationship. We have an open door with Muslims to share with them the special, saving relationship we have with the Jesus they are already acquainted with. They know a lot about Him; they just don't truly know Him personally...yet. Let's always look for the common ground we have with those whom God has created in His image. **Acts 17:16-23**

**Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**: I still remember once as a kid getting caught in a lie by my mother. I told her I was in one place when I was in another, and I got busted...big time. As a parent now, I can imagine how she felt - worry, mixed with anger, topped with disappointment. I'm not sure how she ever forgave me, let alone let me out of the house again. But she did and, while I had to serve my time being grounded, in the end I was forgiven. Once she felt that I was truly sorry and some time had passed, it was as if it never happened. Now I am sure that she never truly forgot, and was always keeping a little closer eye on me as I grew up, but she never held it against me. God too is like that, when we mess up. His love overrides it all; our faltering is not held against us. When you mess up or when you make choices that are not the best, God forgives and allows you to keep trying. So when you do find yourself in those kinds of struggles, be humble in seeking forgiveness, and be bold in living as God intends. Pray- God, for the times that I have faltered, forgive me and give me the courage to keep trying. Help me to remember that you are still on my side. **Psalm 25:6-10**

**Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**: Have you ever read a verse in the Bible for the umpteenth time and suddenly seen something new? For me recently it was Exodus 6:3, and evidently I've always skimmed right past it. It reads, "And I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as God Almighty, ***but by My name, LORD, I did not make Myself known to them.***" (emphasis added) For me that was a "wow" moment. We, like the great patriarchs of the Bible, probably also know Him as God Almighty – the One who is above all; is Creator of all; and is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent. But do we genuinely know Him as Lord? The fathers knew His title was LORD, but it wasn't until the bondage in Egypt that He needed to let His people understand His ***name*** is LORD (YHWH). The significance was that He was revealing Himself as actively present in their lives and in their impending deliverance through the blood of a lamb. They would have to trust Him to such a degree that they were surrendering totally to His leading. Does this

sound like the Trinity? Am I totally surrendered to Him as sovereign Father, redeeming Son, and indwelling and guiding Holy Spirit? Lord, may we all truly know and submit to You as LORD in every aspect of our lives. **Prov. 3:5-6; Heb. 13:20-21**

**Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>:** Repent! That's not a word you hear every day. Repent! It literally means to change your mind. Ever heard someone tell you to repent? Probably not, but I'm guessing you've heard, "Stop that!" "Stop that!" is the modern day version of "repent!" Jesus told those gathered that all of them – and us – have reason to repent – to change the way we live, think, and love. The reality is that we don't always live as Christ calls us to live; but the gift of God's mercy is that we don't get what we deserve. God's judgment is not based on how far off the mark we are. Instead it is based on how much God loves us. And God's love for us is more than we can imagine. Thank goodness we serve a God who gives us chances to try again. So repent! Try again! Change your mind – and your life. **Luke 13:1-5**

**Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>:** One of the pitfalls of getting older and "wiser" is the mistaken attitude of not needing to continue learning. If that resembles you, I have some disappointing news – you haven't arrived! It's pretty irritating to be around someone who doesn't need to hear what others have to say because they already know all the answers and are eager to share that with anyone who will listen. In fact, Proverbs 1:7 tells us that it's fools who despise wisdom and instruction. However, in Proverbs 18:15 we are told that an intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. Thank you, Holy Spirit, that You have promised to teach us all things. That means there will always be things we need to learn. May we be humble, life-long learners who rely on You and are eager to listen when You speak. **Prov. 1:5; John 14:26**

**Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**: In his book Not a Fan, Kyle Idleman offers quite a sobering commentary on being a fan. You see, fans are enthusiastic admirers. He describes them as the ones who go to a football game with their faces painted and scream their lungs out to cheer on their beloved team, but they're never on the field taking hits, and if the teams happen to have a series of off seasons, the fans find another team to root for. Jesus was never interested in having fans. If He were, He would never have told the crowd looking for more fish and bread that He was the living bread – “For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.” (John 6:55) That was enough to send the “fans” looking for a different team! What Jesus desires is followers who are flat-out committed. He wants those who are willing to deny their personal agenda and take up their cross daily – not just on weekends. I want...I need to have skin in the game! Otherwise, I'm just a fan. **Matt. 7:21-23; James 2:20-22**

**Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**: “One thing I ask from the Lord...”If you were entering into a contract with God and you could ask for any one thing, what would it be? And what would you offer God in return? A contract, after all, is usually between two parties who both agree to something – a service agreement for some kind of payment. In a contract with God, who serves and who pays? In God's house, who serves and who is served? In a covenant relationship with God, the lines are blurred between servant and master. Christ is both host and guest in our hearts. We invite him to come in as a guest and then, as we get to know each other, we ask him to be Lord because we trust him with our lives. The most holy and high God is also the one who took the very nature of a servant – humbling himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2:8). **Psalm 27:4-5**

**Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>:** You may have noticed that the cover of this devotional bears the mandate from Luke 18:1 to always pray and never give up. There can be a variety of reasons we may give up, or at least lose steam in our prayers. One reason is we don't have solid confidence that God actually hears or will respond to our prayers. Another common rationale is we pray and pray and pray and don't see any immediate results. God is absolutely capable of answering on the spot, as we see when Jesus cursed the fig tree and it straight away withered. However, we also see Jesus' example of the widow who repeatedly asked for justice from the king and because of her persistence he answered. How much more will our heavenly Father honor our perseverance in coming to Him. When the disciples were amazed with the fig tree, Jesus used this immediate occurrence to illustrate the power of prayer by telling them that all things they would ask in prayer, believing, they would receive! We know that we must ask according to His will, but He's pretty clear that He **does** hear and He **will** answer. So don't lose heart, but rather continue in expectation. God doesn't lie. **Matt. 21:21-22; 1 John 5:14-15**

**Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>:** Reconciliation is nothing short of a miracle. Reconciliation preserves a relationship that could have just as easily been flung aside. Reconciliation is always a good reason for celebration. It is life-giving. The first step in reconciliation is letting go of the past. The more we hold on to the way we think things should have been, the less likely we are to see the opportunity emerging for a brand new way. God is always able to offer us a new ending. All we have to do is recognize that the story isn't over yet, and turn back to the One who loves us unconditionally. **Luke 15:1-2**

**Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>**: Did you know that there is a battle for your joy? The enemy would like to dupe you into thinking that pleasure as an end in itself will bring you satisfaction, but he's a liar. C. S. Lewis once said that we are far too easily pleased. It's not that our desires are too strong, but rather they are too weak because we seek amusement rather than true joy. Amusement comes from the word muse, which as a noun means a source of inspiration and as a verb means to reflect deeply. However, when you add the prefix "a" it means not or without. We settle for less than inspiration or serious contemplation. This is not to say that any form of pleasure or fun is ungodly. It just means that we shouldn't expect it to fulfill our deeper needs. Solomon is a good example of the futility of seeking pleasure – chasing after the wind! Amusement is easy and enticing, yet we live in a culture of unsatisfied people who have access to a wealth of entertainment. The enemy's objective is to steal and destroy; God's is to satisfy and restore! We are meant to enjoy Him through His creation, but when our focus is centered on what is created rather than the Creator, we're just striving after the wind. He promises if we seek Him first, all these things will be added. Don't lose this battle. Enjoy creation, but pursue the Presence of the Creator. **Ps. 16:11, 37:4; Luke 12:30-32**

**Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**: "Accept no substitutes!" advertisers warn us from TVs and magazines. I've got nothing against generic products. But anyone who's ever compared a store brand chocolate cookie with an Oreo knows that sometimes only the original will do. In the Second Commandment, God tells us: Only the Original will do. Imagine drawing a picture of your girlfriend or boyfriend, or your husband or wife. Then imagine relating entirely to that picture instead of to him or her. They'd be really annoyed, and who could blame them? But all the time we treat people and things as though they are god, while ignoring the real God. God gets angry with that, and rightly so. "I Am who I Am," says God. "Trust that *I am* the only one worth building your life around." **Exodus 20:2-4**

**Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**: Hopefully everyone who attended last month's Resilient Church conference came away with a deeper understanding of trauma and its devastating effects on the human soul, but also with the understanding that the greatest agent of change is healthy relationships and love. How encouraging that God has so graciously equipped us to be His representatives. His love affords healing and transformation in the lives of brothers and sisters who have experienced different traumatic events, and the crippling effects of these can be defeated. Romans 8:37 assures us that in **all** these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us! Praise God that He is the source and He has made us the vessels. We were made to glorify Him. **Eph. 2:10**

**Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**: The Jewish leaders question Jesus' authority to disrupt anything in the temple. "By what authority are you doing these things? What miraculous sign will you show us?" they ask. Jesus' love of God, his "passion" for God's house moved him to act in clearing the temple, but it is his knowledge of his relationship with God, his being God's Son, that provides an answer to the leaders' question. "Destroy this temple and in three days I'll raise it up," Jesus answers. The earthly vision of the leaders and the heavenly vision of Jesus collide. While Jesus' eyes and heart were open to the full power and glory of God, the leaders were limited in their vision, seeing only the daily grind of keeping their system of worship running smoothly. With such limitations, they could not hear his words about the miracle that was coming—the resurrection of God. What are you missing? How are you limiting God's actions by your interpretations? Are you ready for a resurrection in your own faith? **John 2:18-22**

**Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**: God, creator of all things, is truly the master of the universe. With the words in the Scripture today, Isaiah remembers Moses leading people on a walk through the sea, because God made a way where there was none. Mighty armies, chariots, and horses cannot rise unless God wills it to be or allows it to happen. We're comforted by the idea that the things we think are powerful must still submit to God's eternal truth. God is in charge of us and our lives – not just any force of nature, not just any army. This reminder might seem obvious to us when we are admiring God or asking for something in prayer; but, it is here for us to clear away any fear we might have and to strengthen our stance with the truth. We are blessed when we can remember how strong God is all the time. God, help me to remember you are the most powerful force there is. You have made a new way for me that is wide open. You can handle any danger and anything I fear. Help me keep my eyes on you. **Isaiah 43:16-18**

**Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**: The functioning of the human body is truly amazing. About 30 trillion cells form organs and appendages that work together to make one of us. When some of those organs or appendages are missing, the body doesn't usually function quite as effectively. When you place multiple bodies in a church, it forms another body that also needs a variety of individual "parts" that are all essential to productivity according to design. But it doesn't end there. No one church has all the answers or should consider itself "better than" because of its visibility, size, or what it can accomplish on its own. When it shares resources and responsibility with other parts in God's grander design for kingdom purposes – you're getting the picture. Each individual part of each body has a necessary function, and when parts are missing or not contributing, bodies don't reach their full potential. God's blueprint is for His kingdom to come on earth, and that means lots of different parts with different functions working together. We need to remember it's His blueprint and He's the master builder. Lord, let this encourage and motivate us to be intentional about identifying what our part is and then to put all of our effort into fulfilling it with excellence.

**Jn. 15:4-5; Rom. 12:4-5**

**Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**: If only I had a new car. If only I could win the lottery. If only I could change this one part of my body. If only (you fill in the blank), then my life would be so much easier. We all find ourselves wishing for a quick fix of easy living sometimes, but as we follow Jesus into the wilderness, we quickly learn that this vision of “the good life” is nothing more than a mirage cast over our eyes by the Tempter’s hand to lure us off-course. There simply is no such thing as a worry-free life or problem-free living, and no one knew this better than Jesus himself. We’re all tempted to believe at one time or another that it’s what we have or what we don’t have that defines us. But Jesus helps to restore our vision by showing us that who we are in relation to whose we are is ultimately what gives our life meaning and purpose. **Matthew 4:8–10**

**Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**: We’ve had some teaching about finances, the value in handling them wisely, and what our relationship with money reveals about our level of trust in God. We know He promises in Malachi that if we honor Him first with our finances He will open the floodgates of heaven. We also know that He doesn’t actually *need* our money – He desires our hearts! Can you imagine Pure Heart experiencing the same dilemma that Moses faced in the wilderness when they were building the tabernacle? In Exodus 35:21 we read that everyone whose heart was stirred brought contributions for the work, and by chapter 36:5-7 the skilled men who were performing the work told Moses, “The people are bringing much more than enough...for the material they had was sufficient and more than enough for all the work to perform.” Moses actually had to tell them to stop contributing! I seriously doubt that Dan is going to ask us to stop tithing, but ask God to so move in our hearts that what we give to His work would be “more than sufficient”.

**Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**: First Corinthians 3:11 reads, “For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Christ Jesus.” He is indeed our firm foundation, the solid rock that keeps us secure. Now imagine the impact of placing those words under the threshold of the home you have prayed for, the home you have worked for, the home that strangers who don’t know you have been laboring tirelessly to build for you. Imagine seeing the thankfulness and joy on the faces of the recipient family. This is one piece of what the team, many of them youth, may experience this weekend in Puerto Peñasco as they partner with 1Mission to help construct this home. This is what it means to be the church of Jesus and to build His kingdom. Pray for a mighty display of God’s purpose, power, and presence as He directs and interacts with all those working shoulder to shoulder to lay a lasting foundation in Him. **Luke 6:48; Eph. 2:19-22**

**Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**: The old question still rings in my ears from youth group days: “Is there anything God can’t do?” Of course there is nothing God can’t do. God is God and can do everything, knows everything, and is with us all the time. God enables us to see Jesus more clearly. Yet Jeremiah tells us that God can forget. Huh?! But wait before you get nervous. God forgets our sinful ways and remembers our sins no more! How awesome is that? God loves us unconditionally, without rules, without limits. In this new promise with God, God forgives our sins and forgets about them. Thank you, God, for loving us, for forgiving us, and for not remembering our sins. You are indeed an awesome God! **Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalms 103:12**

**Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>**: There are certain movie lines that speak volumes about human nature. One such line is from *Two Weeks Notice* when Sandra Bullock's friend is consoling her outside the friend's apartment and the friend's husband sticks his head out the window to see what's going on. The friend shouts back, "Not everything is about you!" From infancy we all tend to process life's events around how it impacts us. Too often people vote solely for who will benefit their pocketbooks or personal agendas. They look for ways to have their needs served. Jesus gives us a different example – the King of Kings and Lord of Lords came to serve others, to wash their feet, and to give His very life to ransom theirs. This may sound almost demeaning, but those who are willing to follow in His footsteps will find honor from the Father. Our greatest fulfillment will come when we empty ourselves so that He can work through us and we can be shining lights to reflect His glory and salvation to those who are perishing. **Mark 10:42-45; Phil. 2:5-16**

**Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**: The Hebrew root word translated "keep" means to guard, to protect, to take care of someone or something. It implies looking out for someone else's best interests, keeping another from harm or injury, watching out for his or her welfare. In order to "keep" someone in this way, you must pay attention. You have to intentionally regard the other seriously, personally, continually. You have to care. God cared for Abraham. God cared for Nicodemus. God cared for Jesus. God cares for me. Faith is living like you are God's person. Faith is living your life trusting God every day. Faith includes living by God's rules and trusting God to love you and forgive you when you mess up. Faith means living like Jesus. God is my keeper—in a good way. God keeps me constantly in sight, protecting me always. God keeps me from evil. God keeps me surrounded by care and provision when I am awake and while I sleep. Pray- Lord, you watch over my comings and goings. With the decisions I make, keep me safe. Watch over those I love. Help me to care for others as much as you care for me.

**Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>:** Technology never ceases to amaze me, and I find the whole concept of virtual reality fascinating. A person can instantaneously be transported into a “different universe” where their mind and emotions actively respond to and engage with an incredible simulation of reality. To be sure, there are educational applications that can be beneficial, but the bottom line is it’s still not real. It’s an imitation of life. There should be a purpose to it, or it’s just entertainment. Sometimes I think our lives as Christians can take on a similar characteristic. We listen to dynamic messages and read inspiring books that move us emotionally and teach us valuable information, but if that’s as far as it goes we’re just entertaining ourselves. We’ve fooled ourselves into believing our walk is real, but the truth is, our day-to-day “reality” never changes. Don’t be fooled by any of the enemy’s deceptive imitations of the true life God has designed and purposed for you. It’s the real thing. **Col. 2:6-10; Prov. 15:21**

**Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>:** When I was in high school there were kids that were disliked by others because of circumstances beyond their control. Some were poor; some had mental or emotional problems. They were often teased and rarely invited to social events. They were treated as if their afflictions were contagious. God does not despise the afflicted. I’m glad, because the truth is, we are all afflicted in some way! Sometimes it is obvious to everyone. Sometimes others do not see how we are broken, but we know. And as we know we can embrace “It being okay to not be okay, but also to not stay that way.” We try to hide, and are often aware of our own faults and weaknesses. We do not want to be rejected. We can give praise that God loves the afflicted. God loves us in our imperfections. God loves all who are broken and may seem unlovable. When we recognize that we are loved, despite our faults, then it is easier to love others. **Psalm 22:23-28**

**Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>**: As individuals and as a church we need to be on our knees before the Father, seeking for our country to open its eyes to the callous, horrific pieces of legislation that either have already been passed or are in process. The targets are our children, both the unborn and those with questions about their sexuality. There is such an assault against the family and Biblical values, and we can't just sit by lamenting and criticizing. When we see such an affront against our Father's principles, we need to make our voices heard in a productive manner to those in authority, and then we need to cry out to Him who is above all power and authority. Father God, we know that You are ultimately in control and that there are things taking place in our country that cause You to weep. We ask You to show us how You want us to fight this battle, and then we ask that You lead us triumphantly as we engage in the spiritual warfare. **2 Cor. 10:3-4; Ps. 34:14-17**

**Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**: In "The Second Coming," poet W. B. Yeats writes: "Things fall apart; the center cannot hold." Sometimes our world and our lives echo this line. The darkness of fear, sin, and self-doubt; the evils of prejudice, injustice, and suffering; the chaos of broken promises and broken relationships are all part of our human experience. Dealing with any part of that darkness can make us feel as if everything around and within us has fallen apart. Because he was human, Jesus experienced that same darkness on his way to the cross. But because he was God, Jesus also fully experienced God's power and grace. And so, Jesus makes a promise. Even though his body will also fall apart, he will rise and "draw all things" to himself. As you walk with Jesus to the cross, as you experience the particular shades of darkness that creep into your life, do not forget this promise. Remember always: Jesus is at work. In His life, death, and resurrection he puts our world and our lives back together again. **John 12:27-33**

**Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**: Blind spots. We all have them; people and situations in which we fail to see the big picture. How many times do we who claim to be disciples of Jesus Christ ask the wrong questions or misplace our focus? We are so quick to make snap judgments about others that we turn a blind eye to possibility. We see something that must have a simple explanation (either this man or his parents sinned) instead of mystery and potential. We assume sin in our neighbor, when often we ourselves are the ones in need of healing. Perhaps those blind spots in our own life are gifts yet to be revealed, places where the light of Christ can break through. The good news is that possibility isn't limited to our own experience or imagination. Possibility is limitless with God. **John 9:1-5**

**Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**: According to psychologists, one of our greatest needs (after the basics of food and shelter) is a sense of belonging and of self-actualization, or in other words, a sense of accomplishment and of being the effective part of a whole. That's the beauty of being part of a dynamic body or team. When every part or player is functioning the way it's supposed to, complimenting and supporting one another, great things are accomplished. It's called synergy, which is the phenomenon in which the working together of two or more people or organizations produces a result greater than the sum of their individual effects or capabilities. Maybe it's because it's based on relationship, and we know God is all about that.

Rather than carving out a name for ourselves, let's focus on being the effective part of a whole and then expectantly wait to see the marvelous things He can do through our synergy.  
**1 Cor. 12:12-27; Eph. 4; Ecc. 4:9-12**

**Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**: Uh-oh, this is one of those tough sections of scripture **John 12:31-33**. Jesus knew that the days ahead would not end well. Jesus knew that God's plan for judgment was unfolding. Did Jesus whine and wimp out? Nope, Jesus told the folks exactly what was about to happen. Jesus knew that bad stuff was about to happen. Jesus knew that the bad stuff would still have good outcomes. In this Lenten journey, you may encounter some bad stuff too. Know, as Jesus knew, the good stuff is more powerful, and more meaningful. Awesome! Pray- God please protect me in the bad stuff and keep me focused on you in the good stuff. Help me to lift up Jesus so others can have some good stuff too.



