

PRAY EVERY DAY September 13, 2020 Resource

Part of Jesus' First Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane from Matthew 26:39, NRSV

My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me;
yet not what I want but what you want.

A Prayer by Teresa of Avila

Govern all by thy wisdom, O Lord,
so that my soul may always be serving thee as thou dost will, and not as I may choose.
Do not punish me, I beseech thee,
by granting that which I wish or ask, if it offend thy love, which would always live in me.
Let me die to myself, that I may serve thee;
let me live to thee, who in thyself aft the true life. Amen.

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2020 Challenge

More resources at www.vaumc.org/2020BibleChallenge

September 9 – 29 “Fruit of the Spirit: Self-Control”

September 14: Galatians 5:22-26

September 18: 1 Timothy 6:6-7, 11-12

September 15: 1 Timothy 2:8-10

September 19: 1 Thessalonians 5:5-11

September 16: 1 Timothy 4:7-10

September 20: 2 Timothy 3:1-7

September 17: 1 Timothy 4:11-16

Small Group or Personal Study

Read Matthew 21:28-32.

Use the questions below for small group or personal study:

- In the parable of the two children sent to work in the vineyard by their father, one of the children refused to go work but then after thinking it over went and worked, while the other child agreed to go work but never did. Those hearing the parable decided that the first child did the will of their father. What do you think? Which child did the will of their father?
 - When have you heard Jesus Christ call you to go work? What kinds of things have you heard Jesus Christ calling you to do in that call to work?
 - Has there been a time you heard Jesus Christ calling you to serve but your first response was no? Why did you refuse?
 - Has there been a time your first response was no but after more thought, you decided to obey God? Why did you change your mind? What happened?
 - When have you said yes to God but not followed through in living out what God called you to do?
 - Is there anything you have said yes to God about but you still haven't followed through? What is holding you back?
 - Notice that the “father” image in the parable is not limited to God or Jesus. Jesus readily identifies John the Baptist in the role of “father” like the parable calling people to work in God’s vineyard. This suggests that we may find ourselves in the role of “father” in the parable like John or Jesus, calling children to the will of God Those children may be as unexpected as tax collectors, prostitutes, chief priests, or elders! Who are sons and daughters, or like children to you? How are you graciously calling them to work in God’s vineyard whatever their response?
 - Notice Jesus takes the role of the sons in this parable in the Garden of Gethsemane as in the opening and closing scriptures for prayer this week. Jesus prayed to not do God’s will,

putting himself in our place as we struggle with God's will. Jesus also put himself into God's will at the end of each prayer time, leading us in faith to do the same. How does Jesus' struggle with God's will surprise or comfort you?

Spend time in silence

Prayer for others and yourself

The Lord's Prayer

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Call to Pray at Noon Every Day

Almighty God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

We thank you for your blessings, past, present and future. You are our rock and the source of our hope in all things and at all times. As Jehovah Jireh, our provider God, we ask you this day to stretch out your mighty hand and eradicate from the face of the earth forever this virus called COVID-19 (coronavirus) that is spreading rapidly from continent to continent. We also pray that you, Jehovah Rapha, our healing God, would place your hand upon all of those who have been stricken by this virus and restore them to full health. Be with those who have lost loved ones and are grieving. Protect all who are caring for those with this virus and keep them from contracting it themselves. Calm our fears and provide us with your peace that surpasses all understanding. Strengthen us with the joy of the Lord and help us to hold firmly to the hope that only you can provide.

Unify us that we, the Virginia Annual Conference, may be able to experience anew the promise of your presence in and through the unity of our faith, hope and trust in you in the days ahead and forever. We offer this prayer in the mighty name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

A Daily Prayer for Racial Justice and Reconciliation

(The following prayer is offered by the Bishop's Work Group on Racial Justice and Reconciliation.)

O loving God,

We give you thanks for creating the world which is full of diversity
and for making one human family of all the peoples of the earth.

You reign over all the nations and are seated on your holy throne.

You rule over all the peoples without partiality in respect to nations or races
because righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.

Forgive us for the times when we put walls around us with false pride and racial prejudice.

Forgive us for the times when we were silent in the face of racism, private or institutional.

Open our eyes to see Christ who is in people of every nation and every culture.

Break down the walls that separate us. Set us free from fear, hatred and racism.

Bind us together with the unity of God's love. Restore oneness to the family of God.

We pray in the name of Jesus who came, lived and died for all humanity. Amen.

Share the Love of Jesus because It's All about Relationships

How will you or how did you share the love of Jesus with neighbor today with no strings attached? Write it down and share about it this week in small group for support and prayer.

Part of Jesus' Second Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane from Matthew 26:42, NRSV

My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.