

100 Days of Prayer

PREPARING THE WAY FOR THE LORD

WEEK 8 (Mar 15 - Mar 21)

A Weekly Guide for 100 days of Praying to Prepare the Way for the Lord

Starting on January 25th, 2023 (Day 1), Culminating on May 4th, 2023 (Day 100)

KEY VERSES FOR THE WEEK: Matthew 9:16-17 (NIV)

16 “No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. 17 Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.”

REFLECTION: *New Wineskins*

When Jesus began His ministry and started teaching and healing those around Him, He often caused quite a stir. It jolted the way people thought about God and about their faith. It also sparked hope that God was on the move.

What Jesus said profoundly and what he did miraculously certainly made people take notice. But, He agitated more than a few religious leaders by simply doing things differently. He didn't do tasks blindly. He didn't do it merely to follow tradition. He apparently was willing to break the rules when they didn't make sense, and He led His followers to do the same.

When questioned about the practice of fasting, Jesus did not dismiss this time-honored discipline. However, He talked about timing, how there is a time to celebrate and a time to grieve and fast. This was not the time to fast.

Jesus then went on to talk about sewing patches and choosing wineskins. He wanted His followers to know that God's quickening Kingdom could not be contained in old traditions and rituals and ceremonies. It's not that the old stuff has

to be thrown away. But, people would have to respond anew to what God was doing and create fresh expressions of hope and faith and love. Walking in relationship with God was never meant to be about mechanical adherence to a bunch of ancient rules and regulations. The new wine needs new wineskins.

Today, God is definitely up to something good. Revival fires and genuine lavish worship appear to be breaking out spontaneously worldwide. Movies about past revivals are spurring spirited conversations about how Jesus can transform a generation. Some aspects look similar to past moves of God. Other elements don't. And that's okay, as long as God is the one igniting the fire.

What new wineskins will we need to adapt to the new thing God is revealing? What is God calling us to be flexible about in this season? What old ways of thinking do I need to lay down? God is calling His people to get ready. He is nudging us to creatively craft a new way of ministry together that will demonstrate God's love and truth just the way He intended. It's time for new wineskins.

PRAYER POINTS:

Use these suggested prayer items as a starting point for where the Holy Spirit will lead you...

1. Praise God that He is always faithful and trustworthy and unchanging in character. Praise Him also that He is loving enough to bring a fresh and personal revelation of Himself to each generation. He cares little about specific methods and more about people's hearts.
2. Pray that God will continue to cause a stir across our city and nation. Pray that more and more people in the Church and outside of it will react and dialogue about who Jesus is.
3. Pray that our hearts will be anchored in truth and love. May God make us firm on the essentials of our faith and abundantly flexible in how we love and care for the lost. Pray for humility - no matter our denomination or preferences - to receive whatever God is revealing to us in this season. Pray for the grace to handle new wineskins God is bringing.
4. Pray for the local churches and pastors in your neighborhood. Pray that God would meet the material and spiritual needs of each congregation. Pray for our role to foster unity.
5. Pray that God will direct us as a city to engage in a fresh way during the upcoming National Day of Prayer. Ask God to direct the local planners and Korean leaders. Pray that we would demonstrate boldness, creativity, and risky faith. Pray we would not settle for anything less.

FOR MORE INFO ON THESE GUIDES:

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