



APRIL/MAY 2023

Two Prayers for Today

Evana will soon release a series of resources for prayer ministries. A 21 and 40-day prayer guide are already available and resources for leaders are being assembled to encourage and strengthen the prayer ministries in our churches. Across our network, there is an increasing pursuit of a vision to see our churches as a 'house of prayer for the nations.' Toward this vision, here are two prayers of Jesus to meditate on today.

When Jesus turned over the tables in the temple and drove out the moneychangers he quoted from Isaiah 56:6 and Jeremiah 7:11, "My house will be called a house of prayer for the nations but you have made it a den of robbers." This is one of the few events in Jesus's ministry recorded by all four Gospels. It's also one of the most visceral responses of Jesus to their religious practices. Clearly, what was going on in and around the temple was far from God's intent.

Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem to celebrate Passover marks the beginning of Holy Week and is called 'Palm Sunday.' The entire history of the world will be divided

by the events of this week and much will happen that was long prophesied and yet unexpected by even the closest followers of Jesus. During this period of Easter where we too center ourselves at the cross and celebrate the gift of resurrection, looking to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, two prayers of Jesus during Holy Week are worth meditating on.



Jesus' Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane

Jesus' experience in the Garden of Gethsemane sets into motion the events of holy week. It may quickly be obscured by the work of individuals who seem ultimately responsible for Jesus' crucifixion (Jewish religious leaders, Pilate, and Judas Iscariot). But listen closely to Jesus in the garden:

Matthew 26:39: 'My father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.'

Matthew 26:42: 'My father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.'

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ReGen 2023 Registrations Close May 26!

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind - Romans 12:2

ReGen 2023 at Taylor University is right around the corner! From June 26 to 30, we will be offering over 20 workshops, featuring a wide range of topics for every age. Registrants can sign up for a day pass or a full week including lodging, meals and access to all our activities.

And we are excited for what our keynote speaker Olivia Williamson will be sharing. As the director of *Claim Your Campus* and the founder of *Enlightened Students* ministry, Olivia has a wide heart for prayer and the next generation. Currently residing in Kansas City with her husband, Kyle, Olivia spends her time helping people learn how to discern God's voice and identify their calling in life.

While Evana Network places a high value on ReGen programming for teens and young adults, we've found the challenge and encouragement is welcome for all ages in deepening their commitment to Christ. Evening sessions will feature Olivia with our returning guest worship team Sing Love Worship. Sing Love is a worship collective based in Central Indiana, made up of all high school youth. Morning worship will feature a variety of voices from within and outside of Evana Network.

Whether a long-time member or exploring a relationship with us, ReGen is the place to experience what we are all about.

Registration closes May 26, 2023. For more information on day pass and full registration options, visit evananetwork.org.



TRANSFORMED
June 26-30, 2023

Matthew 26:45-46: 'Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!'

Notice the place of the father in the life of the son. What is evident in this prayer is visible throughout Jesus' life and ministry. His daily work was not driven by agendas and demands of people. He was attentive to their needs and responsive to their questions. He wasn't dismissive of people. In fact, Jesus' experience with blind Bartimaeus illustrates His sensitivity to people overlooked by others (Mark 10:46-52). But His will was firmly intact and resolutely aligned to the voice of the father. Neither personal desire nor the expectations of people sidetracked Jesus from being fully receptive to and obedient to the voice of the Father.

Once, when his authority and relationship with the father was questioned by religious leaders, he said, "My father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working...the Son can do nothing by himself; he can only do what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does...for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me...I do not accept glory from human beings' (John 5:17,19, 30, 41).

Before we distance too much from this closeness with the Father and perfect alignment between hearing and obeying, we need to listen to Jesus' other prayer at the beginning of Holy Week: John 17.

Jesus' Prayer for His Followers

Jesus begins his prayer, 'Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.' (John 17:1) He then prays for His followers: 'Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. (vv.17-18) 'I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me...I in them and you in me- so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (vv.20-23)

You and I can experience the fulfillment of Jesus' prayer here and live today in communion with the triune God. Like Jesus, our agenda today can be driven by the will of the Father rather than personal desire or the demands of others. We can be attentive to their needs without aligning our will to them. Jesus' prayer in the Garden, 'not my will, but your will be done' is a prayer of freedom for us. A daily echo of this prayer will lead to unspeakable joy, peace, and fruitfulness.

Come Lord Jesus! Come Holy Spirit. Have your way in all that is said and done today. Soli Deo Gloria- to the glory of God alone!

- Wes Furlong, Director of Church Resources

Seeking a Youth Camp Experience?

Camp Luz, strategic partner with Evana since 2018, has registration open for their 2023 summer camp programs. Overnight camps for children age 7-18 challenge campers to learn and grow in their faith through Bible-based teaching, pastoral input, and some of the best staff-to-camper ratios around.



Their full schedule of programs as well as online registration can be found at www.campluz.com or scan the QR code.

Looking for ways to support Evana Network?

We have specific areas individuals and organizations can underwrite and support our work with pastors, congregations and communities.

You might consider...

...sponsoring a pastor and spouse for our February 2024 Pastor/Spouse retreat.

...helping with the costs of bringing keynote speakers and worship team to our major events.

...underwrite a meal, gift bags, banquets and other events at Flourish/ReGen

...cover a ReGen conference youth day with a coffee/smoothie bar rental or activity.

If interested, reach out to Darlene Sommers, Director of Operations at darlene@evananetwork.org.

