

A Season of Prayer

Week 3: July 17 – July 23

Boldness in Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ

The Apostles and Believers in Jerusalem Pray for Boldness

Acts 4: 23 – 31

“And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.” Acts 4: 31

The political and religious authorities in Jerusalem ordered the Apostles not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. This order was not given because these authorities doubted the truth of what the Apostles were saying. They admitted to themselves that the Apostles were speaking truth. Rather they did not want the truth proclaimed because the truth would jeopardize their own power, positions, wealth and prestige. They were interested in pleasing themselves, not in pleasing God. These were, truly, powerful and dangerous men who had successfully orchestrated the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The Apostles knew these evil authorities and understood that they had the power to enforce their prohibition.

In response to this order the believers gathered and prayed affirming the sovereignty of God Almighty and asking for power to proclaim the name of Jesus even more boldly in the face of this powerful opposition.

Christians in Charleston and America also hear “Do not speak the name of Jesus” from many sources. Like the Apostles and first century believers let us all pray together affirming God’s sovereignty and asking for the power to speak Jesus’ name even more boldly.

July 18 – Our Nation and Community (Morning Prayers)

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10

Pray that the Holy Spirit will stir up Christians to “Fear not”

Pray that the Spirit will call Christians together throughout Charleston and America to pray for renewed boldness in proclaiming the name of Jesus.

July 18 – Calvary and Personal (Evening Prayers)

“ Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matt 18:19-20

Today be thankful for the opportunities to join Jesus in His redemptive mission to bring forgiveness and new life to all.

Pray that His promise to always be with you as you share Him with others will reduce your fear and give you courage to speak boldly.

July 19 – Our Nation and Community (Morning Prayers)

“For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” Rom 12:4-5

Pray that the Holy Spirit will bring unity to Christian congregations in Charleston and in our nation.

Pray that Charleston churches will be of one accord in working together to proclaim the gospel of Christ to unbelievers more boldly than ever before.

July 19 – Calvary and Personal (Evening Prayers)

“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” Proverbs 27:17

Pray that each of us at Calvary will be responsive to Jesus’ command to “go and make disciples...”

Pray that we will each, with the guidance and teaching of the Holy Spirit, be able to both sharpen others and be sharpened by others so that we may boldly proclaim Christ to those whom we encounter in our daily lives.

July 20– Our Nation and Community (Morning Prayers)

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” 1Cor 15:58

Pray that the Holy Spirit will give Christians in Charleston and American churches a renewed, urgent concern for the eternal fate of those who do not know Jesus as savior and a renewed reassurance that we do not proclaim Christ in vain.

Pray that the Spirit will continue to equip all Christians in Charleston and America to proclaim the gospel and that the Holy Spirit would use our proclamations to draw unbelievers to Jesus.

July 20– Calvary and Personal (Evening Prayers)

“And the Lord commissioned Joshua the son of Nun and said, “Be strong and courageous, for you shall bring the people of Israel into the land that I swore to give them. I will be with you.” Deut 31:23

Pray that Calvary will respond with strength and courage to the leading of the Holy Spirit as we seek to encourage and help other local congregations to boldly proclaim the gospel to our community.

Pray for the right words to encourage and equip other Christians to also speak Christ's name boldly.

July 21 – Our Nation and Community (Morning Prayers)

“And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So, we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!”” 2 Cor 5: 18b-20

Pray that every Christian church in Charleston and America will be responsive to the calling of the Holy Spirit to participate actively in the ministry of reconciliation of people to God that has been given to them.

Pray that the ‘wonderful message’ will be preached and proclaimed throughout our community and nation as never before.

July 21 – Calvary and Personal (Evening Prayers)

“...For he has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So, we can confidently say, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?’” Hebrews 13:5b-6

Pray that the Holy Spirit will remind us individually and corporately of Jesus’s promise to never leave or forsake us and that He will empower us to always speak boldly of Christ in our personal lives and as a body of believers at Calvary.

Pray that the preaching of the true gospel at Calvary will be used by the Holy Spirit to draw others to faith in Jesus Christ and transformed life.

July 22 – Our Nation and Community (Morning Prayers)

“So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord.....2 Tim 1:8a

Pray that all Christian Pastors in Charleston and America will not be ashamed to tell others about our Lord and will in their Holy calling preach and proclaim the same gospel that was preached by the Apostles.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will use the preaching and proclaiming of the true gospel to convict and bring people to repentance in Jesus Christ.

July 22 – Calvary and Personal (Evening Prayers)

” Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened. But in your hearts revere

Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, - 1 Peter 3:13-15

Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you the words to explain what Jesus has done in your own life and to explain the hope you have in Him.

Pray for understanding of how to share Jesus with love and respect with unbelievers.

July 23 – Our Nation and Community (Morning Prayers)

“I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.”

Philippians 1:12-14

Pray that the sufferings of Christians in Charleston, America, and the world will, like the sufferings of Paul, serve to advance the gospel.

Pray that our Christian churches will be emboldened by the suffering and persecution of their fellow Christians and will, in love, proclaim Jesus’ name even more boldly.

July 23 – Calvary and Personal (Evening Prayers)

“When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?” Psalm 56:3-4

Pray that you will have opportunities and courage to boldly speak Jesus’ name to others during this next month.

Pray that Calvary will have many opportunities to preach the gospel and share our stories with many unbelievers in the weeks ahead.