

30 Days of Prayer

Day 2

Matthew 22:34-39

34 When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' ³⁷He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'" ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

We have committed ourselves to intentional, focused prayer because we love and care for our sisters and brothers in Christ who worship along side us at Shepherd of the Hills. We want to see this community of faith thrive and grow. We want our church family to be well communally, personally, spiritually, physically, and financially. So we offer our prayers to God in a spirit of love for one another.

When you have finished saying what you want to say to God, take time to listen. If you find yourself distracted as you listen, recite Jesus' commandments to yourself and hear what God may be telling you. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind... [and] love your neighbor as yourself."

God our Father, who has blessed us with sisters and brothers in Christ,

Again I ask you to remove the distractions of the busyness of my life that prevent me from fully speaking with you and listening to you. Help me find the words that describe the cares and concerns that I bring before you today. Wipe me clean of worry and fear, and fill the hole in my soul with your Spirit, your light, your life, and your peace.

I come before you today because I have such a deep love for the sisters and brothers you have given me. Our family is hurting, and it's the kind of pain only you can heal. Pour out your healing power upon the staff, the lay leaders of the congregation, and upon the entire congregation. I offer my thanks and praise for the people within this congregation who have been a blessing to me... *(take all the time you need to name people within the congregation who have been a blessing and thank God for their presence in your life).*

Thank you, Lord, for giving me blessings in my family and friends here at Shepherd of the Hills. Keep them close to you and give us all the desire to return to you in prayer again and again in thankfulness and praise. In the name of Christ,

Amen.