

Luke 22:39-53

Christ, you came to seek and save the lost. Your love for your people was unfailing and so you stepped into your creation to provide a way for us to be saved. You subjected yourself to the pain, anguish, sadness, and temptation of this world to provide a way for us to have a relationship with you. You are a high priest who is able to sympathize with our weakness.

Jesus, you submitted to the father in your time of anguish. Like your disciples, we can fall asleep when it comes to our devotion to God. We can be unconscious to our own transgressions. We can be blind to the sufferings of those around us who are earnestly praying for relief. We miss out on the opportunities you place in our path to support others and pray for our selves.

God we pray that we will not fall into temptation. Deliver us from the evils of this world and wake us up to the transgressions in our lives. Teach us to trust in you alone for grace and bring us closer to you as we strive to be more like you.

Help us see those around us who are in anguish. We want to be a people who step into the lives of those in pain and lift them up. There are troubles in this world and no one avoids them all. Life is hard, and God, you told us it would be. But you also gave us each other. You created the church where hurting people can find relief. There are so many people here who have the resources to ease the pain of those around them. Not just physical resources but mental resources as well. We can give those around us our time and attention. An ear to listen or a shoulder to cry on. God guide us to those around us who need our support today.

God we pray for those in our community who are hurting from the loss of a loved one. It seems like every day we hear of a new tragedy that strikes. The seemingly senseless loss of life that happen in a fallen world. We know you have a plan God, but in these moments of pain and loss it's hard to remember to trust in that plan. Lord, for all those around us who have lost someone, we pray for the peace that only you can bring. Reach out your hand and touch them with love and comfort.

Lord, we pray for the strength of your church here in Blackfoot. We can so easily become people who confess you with our lips but our hearts are far from you. We speak your name on Sunday and deny you with our words and actions the rest of the week. We put on the mask of a Christian when its convenient, but there is no real change in our lives. God, reach out and touch our hearts with your mighty power. Give us eyes that see people like you do. Give us hands that serve. Give us feet that walk the narrow path to you. Remind us that every thing that we do should be done for your glory.

Finally, Lord we pray for deeper relationship with you. You displayed your love for us when you died on the cross. You experienced death so that we could have eternal life with you. The good news for all the world. May we always know the hope to which you have called us. A glorious inheritance. Adoption to be sons and daughters of God.

Knowing this, may we be a people that honor you in all that we do. Amen.

Benediction

James 4:7-8

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you.

God may we leave here ready to submit our lives to you so that you can come near us. Protect us from temptation, strengthen us to resist the devil, and teach us to walk ever closer to you.