

Prayer Diary: Holy Week

2-8 April 2023



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From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. (Matthew 27:45)

In the middle of the Easter story, it appears as though darkness has won. The disciples are in a dangerous situation as Jesus – their source of hope – has been crucified. Could God really turn this into something good?

And yet, the glorious Easter morning was just about to dawn. Victory was imminent. God was still faithful. The best was yet to come!

This Holy Week, as you read through some familiar passages, may they remind you of the people and places that seem hopelessly far from transformation, and desperately in need of a breakthrough of justice. Let's contend for these situations in prayer, believing that God is still working for good – even when we do not see or understand.

Jesus' unjust arrest (Matthew 26:50)

Pray for freedom for those who have been arrested or sentenced in connection with their religion or belief. People like Pastor Keshav Raj Acharya in Nepal, Pastor Lorenzo in Cuba and Pastor Nadarkhani among several others in Iran. UPDATE: give thanks that Pastor Nadarkhani was released on 26 February as part of a national amnesty.

Jesus is mocked and mistreated by soldiers (Luke 22:63)

Pray protection over those in prison, such as Chinese lawyer Chang Weiping. He has been subjected to psychological torture and inhumane treatment while in detention for peacefully defending human rights.

Peter under pressure to deny Jesus (John 18:17)

Pray for miraculous transformation in countries like Sudan, so that no one would be pressured to renounce their faith in exchange for their freedom or safety.

Pilate's failure to release an innocent man (Mark 15:13-15)

Pray that God will raise up leaders with integrity, who will listen to evidence and use their power for good. Pray for unjust verdicts to be overturned.

'Why have you forsaken me?' (Matthew 27:46)

Christians are often targeted during significant festivals like Easter. Pray for protection for Christians who are at higher risk at this time of year. Pray that those who feel abandoned or alone would feel the hope of the Gospel afresh this Easter.