



A TIME OF GUIDED PRAYER

PROVERBS AS WISDOM FOR CHURCH AND NATION

FOR PREPARATION

Keep Me Low, Blessed Jesus – Josh Bales

1. Keep me low, blessed Jesus
Always fixed on other's needs.
Keep me mindful, my Redeemer,
Such is the way, you loved me.

REFRAIN

How I long to be like Jesus,
The Father's will my one regard.
Keep me low, blessed Jesus
The Father's glory my only reward.

2. When I rise, the cross forgetting
Taking all my case to task,
Keep me low, blessed Jesus
And for your kindness help me ask.

3. Keep me low, suffering servant
Expecting trials along the way
Bowing low, enduring longer
Trusting in your sovereign Grace.

4. Keep me low, King of glory
While my eyes look up to thee
Through life's battles, keep me
steadfast
Rejoicing in Your victory.

FOR FURTHER MEDITATION

II Corinthians 5: 11 – 21 – The Ministry of Reconciliation

TO KEEP IN MIND

What the world needs most is for the Church to be the Church. When the Church is the Church, it's a remarkable gift to the world. - Chuck Colson

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- *The backdrop of our role as Christians*

- The only way to make sense of the chaos of our culture is to see the world through the lens of truth and scripture – that is, really seeing the world as it actually is.

- We must live-out a Christian worldview wherever God has placed us – in the exact time and place in which we live. This is the true calling on our lives – so we can be a part of his larger story of redemption, and agents of his reconciliation.

- *The purpose of this gathering for prayer*

- Prayer is what God has given us to do first – especially at a time of chaos.

- Our focus must not be what is happening “out there,” but rather what is happening in the church.

- *Our call*

- To live from a perspective of truth AND love – not in conflict. When that is done – and done well – we (the church) will be the salt and light the world needs.

- *Living in this cultural moment*

- Over the past year of COVID, the church – in many cases – has been considered “non-essential,” much like a hobby.

- We need to recalibrate who we are in culture. We can't simply be “secularists with a twist.” And, we must “de-privatize” our faith – it is not a non-essential part of life, but rather a distinct part of how we are to live in this world.

- *Praying through the Proverbs*

- The angle of these upcoming weeks in prayer time will be focused on the wisdom found in Proverbs.

- Contrary to the esoteric and nebulous statements found in the wisdom literature of Eastern and New Age religions, Proverbs is basic, straightforward, and applicable. It also tells us about sin – and its' folly.

- Wisdom found in Proverbs is especially helpful in times of conflict or argument – when so often our tone can easily reflect “their” tone. To quote, “a soft answer turns away wrath.” How much wisdom is in this little statement? How profoundly counter-cultural would our applying that be?

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN PRAY AND LIVE THIS WEEK

- *1 Timothy 3: 16 – 17*
In the backdrop of the wisdom found in Proverbs, we can find it profitable in these four ways:
 - Instruction
 - Correction
 - Reproof (i.e., pointing us in the right direction)
 - Instruction in righteousness (i.e., directing us where to go from here)
- *In that spirit, today, and in our weekly prayer times to come, our goal is to elevate the wisdom of these Proverbs and walk through the following steps together:*
 - What is true?
 - Where do we need to be corrected?
 - How do we turn this around?
 - Where do we go from here?
- *The Patient Ferment of the Early Church (Alan Kreider, Baker, 2016)*
 - Patience isn't something you believe. It's something you live out because of what we believe – that the world is in God's sovereign control.
 - The impact of Christianity took time to "seep" into the culture – it was fermenting. While carbonation provides "lots of fizz," it offers no long-lasting effect. Fermentation, however, is profoundly different.

CONCLUSION & FINAL DETAILS

- *Here are several related resources that you may find valuable in the future:*

Truth.Love.Together. '20

 - VIDEO: [Andy Crouch – The People the World Needs](#)

WEBSITES:

 - [The Colson Center for Christian Worldview](#)
 - [BreakPoint](#)

*True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that.
It is spiritual transaction with the Creator of Heaven and Earth.
- Charles Spurgeon*

