



## 21 Days of Prayer: “Come to Jesus”

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

#### COME AND FOLLOW

**Scripture:** Matthew 4:18–22

**Focus:** Grow • Deeply Formed

This sermon introduces the invitation of Jesus to leave what is familiar and step into a life shaped by Him. Prayer becomes the place of surrender, trust, and formation.

### Monday, January 5 — Leaving the Nets

**Read:** Luke 5:10–11

#### Reflect:

The nets were more than tools. They were identity, income, history, and security. When Jesus called the fishermen, He didn't ask them to add something spiritual to their existing lives. He asked them to leave what had defined them. That kind of invitation can feel unsettling. Nets give structure to our days and predictability to our future.

Jesus never shames them for having nets. He simply invites them to trust Him with what they've been holding. Following Jesus often begins with loosening our grip. Not because what we hold is always wrong, but because it can quietly become the thing we trust most.

Prayer is where we begin to notice what we cling to. It is where we admit how much security matters to us and where we ask Jesus whether our nets are shaping us more than He is.

**Respond:**

What represents “nets” in your life right now? Where do you sense Jesus gently inviting you to trust Him more deeply?

**Pray:**

Jesus, You know what I depend on and what I fear losing. Help me loosen my grip and trust You with my security. Teach me to follow You, even when the future feels uncertain.

## **Tuesday, January 6 — Learning His Way**

**Read:** John 15:4–5

**Reflect:**

We live in a world that rewards independence and productivity. We are taught to manage, achieve, and push through. But Jesus offers a different way. He speaks of abiding, remaining, staying connected. Growth in His kingdom does not come from striving harder but from staying closer.

The image Jesus gives is simple and organic. Branches do not strain to produce fruit. They stay connected to the vine. When we disconnect, even subtly, our souls begin to dry out. We may still look busy or faithful on the outside, but inwardly we feel depleted.

Prayer is not a performance. It is a place of remaining. A quiet decision to stay connected to Jesus, even when there are other voices demanding our attention.

**Respond:**

Where has striving replaced abiding in your life? What would it look like to slow down and remain with Jesus today?

**Pray:**

Jesus, I want to stay connected to You. Teach me to abide in Your presence and trust You for growth I cannot produce on my own.

## **Wednesday, January 7 — Transformed, Not Just Forgiven**

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Reflect:**

Forgiveness is beautiful, but transformation is deeper. In Christ, we are not simply cleaned up versions of who we were. We are made new. New desires, new direction, new hope. Yet many of us live as though our past still has the final word.

Following Jesus means allowing Him to reshape not only what we believe, but who we are becoming. This can feel slow and sometimes uncomfortable. Old habits resist change. Old narratives cling tightly. But Jesus is patient. He forms us over time, through grace, not force.

Prayer creates space for this transformation. It invites the Holy Spirit to speak into areas we've written off as "just the way I am." In Christ, nothing is beyond renewal.

**Respond:**

Where do you struggle to believe real change is possible? What old story about yourself might Jesus be rewriting?

**Pray:**

God, thank You that I am a new creation in Christ. Help me trust You with the ongoing work of transformation in my life.

## **Thursday, January 8 — Trusting His Lead**

**Read:** Proverbs 3:5–6

**Reflect:**

Trust does not come naturally when outcomes feel uncertain. We prefer clarity, plans, and guarantees. But following Jesus means learning to trust His wisdom above our own understanding. It is an act of surrender that grows slowly, often through small steps of obedience.

Acknowledging God in all our ways doesn't mean having all the answers. It means inviting Him into our decisions, our questions, and our fears. When we trust Him with direction, He promises to make our paths straight, not necessarily easy, but purposeful.

Prayer becomes the place where we admit what we don't know and place our confidence in who God is.

**Respond:**

What decision or situation do you need to entrust to Jesus today? Where are you relying on your own understanding?

**Pray:**

Lord, I place my trust in You. Lead me, guide me, and help me walk in obedience even when the path isn't clear.

## **Friday, January 9 — Freedom in Following**

**Read:** Galatians 5:1

**Reflect:**

Freedom is often misunderstood. We think freedom means doing whatever we want. But Jesus offers a deeper freedom, one that releases us from sin, fear, and false expectations. Following Him doesn't restrict life. It restores it.

Many of us unknowingly return to patterns that enslave us. We carry guilt, people-pleasing, or fear of failure long after Christ has set us free. Jesus invites us to stand firm in the freedom He has already won.

Prayer helps us recognize where we are living bound instead of free. It reminds us that freedom is not something we earn, but something we receive and protect.

**Respond:**

Where might you be living as though you are still bound? What would it look like to step into Christ's freedom today?

**Pray:**

Jesus, thank You for the freedom You have given me. Help me live in it and not return to what once held me captive.

## **Saturday, January 10 — A Daily Yes**

**Read:** Luke 9:23

**Reflect:**

Following Jesus is not a one-time decision. It is a daily posture. Each day presents a fresh opportunity to say yes to His way, His leadership, and His purposes. Sometimes that yes is bold and visible. Other times it is quiet and costly.

Taking up our cross is not about suffering for suffering's sake. It is about choosing Jesus over self when those paths diverge. In that choice, we find real life.

Prayer becomes the place where we begin each day with surrender. Where we align our will with His and choose faithfulness over convenience.

**Respond:**

What does saying yes to Jesus look like for you today? Where might He be inviting you to deny yourself and trust Him?

**Pray:**

Jesus, today I choose You again. Help me follow You faithfully, one step at a time.