



PRAYING THE
**KING'S
AGENDA**

21
DAYS OF FOCUSED PRAYER
21

Dana Olson

Introduction	3
Day 1 – “Let there be light”	6
Day 2 – “Follow me”	8
Day 3 – “Come to me”	10
Day 4 – “I am the bread of life”	12
Day 5 – “Take up your cross and follow me”	14
Day 6 – “Love the Lord your God”	16
Day 7 – “Love your neighbor as yourself”	18
Day 8 – “Pray without ceasing”	20
Day 9 – “Don’t be anxious”	22
Day 10 – “Love your enemies”	24
Day 11 – “Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it”	26

21 Days of Focused Prayer: Praying the King’s Agenda

Written by Dana Olson

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Scripture reference: Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture references are from the English Standard Version.



Praying the King's Agenda

Day 12 – “Worship in spirit and in truth”	28
Day 13 – “Lay up treasures in heaven”	30
Day 14 – “What God has joined together let no man separate”	32
Day 15 – “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s”	34
Day 16 – “I and the Father are one”	36
Day 17 – “I will make you fishers of men”	38
Day 18 – “Make disciples of all nations”	40
Day 19 – “You will be my witnesses”	42
Day 20 – “I am the way, the truth and the life”	44
Day 21 – “King of Kings and Lord of Lords”	46
About	48

What is the King's Agenda? Imagine a grand, powerful and attention-grabbing voice. Whose voice do you think of? Our answers would probably be somewhat generational. Older ones might think of Paul Harvey. His distinctive voice and unique rhythm and cadence, with dramatic pauses, jumped right out of the radio. “And that’s (pause, pause) the rest of the story. (Pause, pause, even more pause) Good day.”

Fan of *Star Wars*? “Luke, I am your father.” Darth Vader was vocalized by the renowned James Earl Jones, whose voice certainly commanded attention. When Darth spoke, we shivered. Baseball fan? Certain voices come through the radio and are familiar friends (does anybody listen to the radio anymore?). Vin Scully comes to mind, or Red Barber, or for me as a boy in Pennsylvania, Bob Prince. Alas, I’m dating myself again. Who are the voices of the younger generations?

Whoever you think of as The Voice, not singing but speaking, a voice that makes you take notice, imagine that voice reading these words from the Book of Revelation 19:11-16:

“Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.”

There is no question who this horse-riding champion is — it’s Jesus Christ. This is a future vision of Christ’s return to earth. He will come as a victorious Conqueror; a faithful, true and righteous Judge; a merciful Savior (the robe dipped in the blood of the cross); the Word of God; and, yes, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Jesus is the King of kings. He is the Lord of lords. When a king speaks, his subjects listen. When a lord (master) sets the agenda, that agenda is followed to a T.

The great news for us as Jesus-followers is this: All Jesus reveals about himself and all he commands of us in his word is for our good. We have a kind, caring and benevolent King who wants joy, hope, rest and contentment for us both now and forever. He is not a killjoy. His yoke is easy and his burden is light. He’s no slave driver or despot. His commands are not about his ego. He laid down his life for God’s people, and he has a plan for our eternal happiness. He is a gracious giver of many gifts.

One of these is prayer. Jesus invites us to pray often and makes magnificent promises about prayer (see Matthew 7:7-11). The question is how do we know what to pray for? How do we know when our prayers are healthy, good, Christ-honoring and not self-centered or wrongly motivated (James 4:3)?

That's why praying the agenda of Jesus Christ himself is a wise and healthy practice. Pray the King's Agenda. That same Jesus who is King of kings has communicated so much to us in his word. He's told us about himself. And he's told us what he commands. When we pray truth about our Savior and pray according to his commands, we must be on the right track, no? This is praying the King's Agenda: Take what Jesus has revealed and pray it back to him. These 21 Days of Focused Prayer won't begin to exhaust all that the Scriptures reveal about Jesus or all that comes from him. But it's a wise start. And it sets a pattern you can continue.

Each day, we invite you to: Read a brief passage with a truth about Jesus or a command from him. Notice some details from the passage, to aid in understanding. Think about it. What does this imply for me today? How will this impact my day (my week, my month, my life)? Pray. We will offer a suggestion for a prayer starting point, but feel free to "build your own" prayer from there. Want to reflect more on what the Scriptures say about these things? Additional Bible passages are offered for deeper thought. Finally, take a moment and respond personally to each day's truth and prayer opportunity. What is the King, Jesus Christ, saying to me personally through his word today? How can I share it with someone who needs Jesus?

Praying the King's Agenda is simply another way of saying, "Hear what the Lord Jesus has to say to you from the Bible, and pray about that in response." It is allowing your Savior, Jesus, to set your prayer agenda. It is praying the Bible.

For thousands of years new generations of Christian believers have learned the depth and power of praying Scripture. It has transformed untold numbers of Christians. The extraordinary Martin Luther (whose treatise on prayer influenced our two previous 21 Days of Prayer booklets, thanks to Gary Rohmayer), George Muller, Hudson Taylor, on and on the list could go. Want to grow a more focused, powerful and meaningful prayer life? Learn to pray Scripture. Want to know where to start? Start with the agenda of Jesus Christ. Pray the King's Agenda.

PRAYING THE KING'S AGENDA

Name

Start Date



Find rest with the One who said, “Come to me.”

Matthew 11:27-30

All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Notice

A yoke was a wooden frame for joining oxen to do the heavy lifting in a hard job. It formed the tractor of Jesus’ day to work the fields or haul a huge load. For the Jews of Jesus’ day, the law had been turned into a heavy burden, a crushing yoke, impossible to fulfill. Jesus offered a better way, walking with him by faith. He knew God the Father and the love of the Father, and he knew that to walk with God should give rest, not a crushing load.

Think about it

Are you tired? Life can be hard. From cancer to career, from romance to ridicule, from disappointment to delight, life is no picnic. In need of rest? Aren’t we all? Let Jesus take the weight off your shoulders. Let Christ lighten your load. He doesn’t promise all your problems will disappear; he does promise to walk with you through all of them — to be your Shepherd, Guide and Friend. And he has no plan to make religion a crushing yoke for you. Rather, he offers the joy of forgiveness, freedom and fellowship for life’s journey and then — his eternal kingdom. He welcomes you into his church, his family, his body and says, “Let me give you rest. Let me lighten your load. Let me lead you on the grand adventure of changing the world.”

One more thing

Perhaps you have found rest through trusting in Jesus Christ. But you know of others who are deeply burdened and in need of Jesus’ help. Write down a few names here and pray for them.

A prayer for rest

“Heavenly Father, I want the rest that comes from walking with Jesus. I need it. Please take the heavy load of all that makes my life hard and carry them for me (tell God what those things are, if you’d like to do so). And I pray not only for myself, but for others who feel the crushing burden of life weighing them down. (Mention those people by name here.) Thank you, Father, for the promise of rest. Thank you for shouldering my burdens for me. And thank you not only for rest today, but for the great promise of everlasting rest through Jesus Christ, amen.”

To read more of God’s word

Joshua 1, Hebrews 4

Write a personal response to the King’s Agenda



About the author

Dana Olson recently completed his 36th year in full-time Christian ministry, all with Converge. For more than 26 years he led prayer mobilization for Converge, first chairing a prayer commission and later serving as director of Prayer First. He has preached and taught on prayer in hundreds of churches across America and led prayer journeys to our international mission fields. He has also provided prayer opportunities for pastors, missionaries, chaplains and others from coast to coast. He is currently senior pastor for Preaching and Vision at Faith Baptist Fellowship, a

multisite church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He also serves on America's National Prayer Committee and is chairman emeritus of the Denominational Prayer Leaders Network. Dana and Christa have three adult daughters, Anna (the gentle soul), Mary (the missionary) and Betsy (the physicist).

Who is Converge?

Converge is a movement of churches working to help people meet, know and follow Jesus. We do this by starting and strengthening churches together worldwide. For over 165 years we've helped churches bring life change to communities in the U.S. and around the world through church planting and multiplication, leadership training and global missions.

Learn more at converge.org

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