



Lord, We Need You!

Lord, we need an infusion of love and compassion; of humility and selflessness; of openness and understanding. Too many of us are caught up in a revival of 'go it alone' thinking and the medieval notion that walling ourselves in – whether with physical walls or figurative ones – will solve all our problems. People have tried all kinds of walls over and over again throughout history and they have never worked. People always forget that they can be their own worst enemy and that problems are nearly always easier to solve, and progress is far more likely when we reach out to others for help. Isn't that why Jesus called us to be part of a community of faith? When we try to go it alone, we run out of steam (usually at a critical moment!) or make matters worse by losing our grounding and perspective, and spin out of control.

Jesus practiced what he preached. He gathered a community of disciples around him, and regularly turned to God, especially in times of exhaustion or difficulty. He sent his disciples out, not alone but two by two, and brought them back together to report, share their experiences, and recharge within the community. He never put position or status above service or humility.

We find ourselves in a spinning time. We are losing perspective and many have lost sight of God's will and vision for the world and our place in it. Help us see that the option to follow your lead is always in front of us. Help us not to fall prey to the allure of putting self first, claiming the status of 'biggest, and best', or putting up walls. Jesus taught, all of us to come together to be 'one in the Spirit and one in the Lord' so that unity and justice can be restore for everyone.

This week, in your prayer time remember:

- **Victims of Jan. the 24th earthquake in Turkey** – at least 36 are dead and 1,607 are injured
- **Puerto Rico earthquake victims.** The island has experienced aftershocks and tremors every day since December 28. Some have been magnitude 5 or higher including. Some people have also had to deal with heavy rain that has flooded some shelters being used by quake victims. There have been additional earthquakes in the Caribbean region this week.
- **Those facing the coronavirus** –those suffering from the virus and those trying to stop it
- **The people and Wildlife of Australia** where an unprecedented fire season continues. Land, People and endangered animals continue to be at risk
- **The people of Afghanistan** – where, according to the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. dropped 7,423 bombs on the country in 2019. This is a record. 2018 was the previous record year. At least 579 civilians have died in these bombings and the damage to homes and the ability to provide water, electricity and other services to the people has been devastating.



Lord, We Need You!

Lord, we need an infusion of love and compassion; of humility and selflessness; of openness and understanding. Too many of us are caught up in a revival of 'go it alone' thinking and the medieval notion that walling ourselves in – whether with physical walls or figurative ones – will solve all our problems. People have tried all kinds of walls over and over again throughout history and they have never worked. People always forget that they can be their own worst enemy and that problems are nearly always easier to solve, and progress is far more likely when we reach out to others for help. Isn't that why Jesus called us to be part of a community of faith? When we try to go it alone, we run out of steam (usually at a critical moment!) or make matters worse by losing our grounding and perspective, and spin out of control.

Jesus practiced what he preached. He gathered a community of disciples around him, and regularly turned to God, especially in times of exhaustion or difficulty. He sent his disciples out, not alone but two by two, and brought them back together to report, share their experiences, and recharge within the community. He never put position or status above service or humility.

We find ourselves in a spinning time. We are losing perspective and many have lost sight of God's will and vision for the world and our place in it. Help us see that the option to follow your lead is always in front of us. Help us not to fall prey to the allure of putting self first, claiming the status of 'biggest, and best', or putting up walls. Jesus taught, all of us to come together to be 'one in the Spirit and one in the Lord' so that unity and justice can be restore for everyone.

This week, in your prayer time remember:

- **Victims of Jan. the 24th earthquake in Turkey** – at least 36 are dead and 1,607 are injured
- **Puerto Rico earthquake victims.** The island has experienced aftershocks and tremors every day since December 28. Some have been magnitude 5 or higher including. Some people have also had to deal with heavy rain that has flooded some shelters being used by quake victims. There have been additional earthquakes in the Caribbean region this week.
- **Those facing the coronavirus** –those suffering from the virus and those trying to stop it
- **The people and Wildlife of Australia** where an unprecedented fire season continues. Land, People and endangered animals continue to be at risk
- **The people of Afghanistan** – where, according to the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. dropped 7,423 bombs on the country in 2019. This is a record. 2018 was the previous record year. At least 579 civilians have died in these bombings and the damage to homes and the ability to provide water, electricity and other services to the people has been devastating.