

Prayer Topic #8:
A Prayer for the Homeless

Scripture Reading:
Psalm 107:1-22, Matthew 25:31-40

Reflections of the Heart:
“Never look down on anybody unless you’re helping them up.” ~ The Reverend Jesse Jackson

Scriptural Prayer:

Benevolent Father, thank You for Your love, which is a wellspring of life to us all. Thank You for preserving the lives of the homeless. You are a shelter and strong tower for those who need refuge. We thank You for your enduring grace that covers those who cannot take care of themselves. We will praise You at all times. We will constantly speak Your praises. We will boast only in You. Let all who are helpless take heart. We will tell of Your greatness and exalt Your Name together.

Compassionate Father, there are millions in our country who are without physical shelter and basic necessities of life. Right here in Houston, TX there are some who are ill, some who are distraught and confused; others are running away from unspeakable circumstances. You see them and care for them all. As Your children, we commit to seeking them out and to loving them as You love them. We confess that we will live and behave as the compassionate Body of Christ, bringing help and hope to those in need. According to Your Word, we will partake of the true fast, much of which demands that we share our food with the hungry and give shelter to the homeless. We, the Windsor Village UMC Family declare that we will obey Your will concerning the homeless. Whatever Your Holy Spirit tells us to do, we will do. Then we can expect the darkness around us to become as bright as noon. We will rebuild the deserted ruins of our city, and we will be known as a builder of walls and a restorer of homes.

Today, ask the Holy Spirit to show you an opportunity for reaching out in a tangible way to express love to the homeless in your community:

Lord, without You we can do nothing. But with you, all things are possible. Let us not be wise in our own eyes, coming up with good ideas that have no enduring impact. But give us, as well as our civic and government leaders, the wisdom it takes to help raise the standard of living for the homeless. Speak to the heart of the runaways, the drug addicts, the mentally ill, and the disenfranchised who find themselves on the streets with no place to turn. Lead them to safety. When they arrive, place them in the capable care of those You have tried and trained for the purpose of ministering them into a restored life in Christ Jesus. Stir up a movement among churches, non-profits, and even individuals to use their strengths, means, and creativity to abolish homelessness in our land. Help us to give up our evil ways, to learn to do good, seek justice, help the oppressed, defend the cause of orphans, and to fight for the rights of widows.

Eternal Father, forgive us all for our sins of greed, pride, and selfishness. Forgive us for being more preoccupied with our own needs and desires than we are with the needs of others. Forgive those of us who have unfairly judged the outward appearance and circumstances of the homeless. Forgive those who are homeless due to their own pride and rebellion. Forgive those who have driven people from their homes for their own selfish reasons, causing them to suffer undue adversity. Lord, forgive me for **(list any sins that You have committed)**. Holy Spirit, remind the homeless of all of those they need to forgive and help them to be quick to forgive. As for me, Holy Spirit, bring to my remembrance those I need to forgive. **(Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to show You names or faces of people that You may need to forgive. As He shows You, say aloud, “I forgive name of person(s).” Now, trust the Lord to heal any wounds in Your soul caused by unforgiveness.)**

Redeeming Father, help the homeless to not yield to temptation; but deliver them from the evil one.

Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty. Just and true are Your ways, O King of the nations. Who will not fear You, Lord, and glorify Your Name? For You alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before You, for Your righteous deeds have been revealed. In Jesus' Name, amen.

Scripture References for the Written Text: Psalm 34:1-3, Isaiah 58:7, 10, 12, John 15:5, Matthew 19:26, Isaiah 1:16-17, Matthew 6:13, Revelation 15:3-4

Today I will trust God to:
