

Martha

Love in action

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Luke 10:38

24-7 PRAYER FOR REVIVAL 31 July – 6 August 2023

MARTHA Love in Action

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Harbour cities

Praying for harbour cities in Europe

As we pray for women over the next two weeks we will focus on the character of Martha and Mary in their friendship with Jesus. Martha showed her affection by serving others, while Mary chose to sit at the feet of Jesus.

The account in the Bible of Martha wholeheartedly serving Jesus and her guests, provides the guidelines for prayer this week.

MONDAY: 31 JULY 2023

WELCOME JESUS INTO YOUR HOUSE

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. (Luke 10:38).

Martha welcomed Jesus into her home at a time when His message was rejected by many others. Her hospitality in the face of rejection is commendable.

Consider:

- Are you willing to openly testify of your friendship with Jesus in today's culture where He is often rejected?
- Is your home inviting and open to believers who share the gospel?
- Are visitors to your home refreshed and nourished by God's Word because your conversations are inspired by His ordinances?

Let us pray:

- Take time today to pray for your home and your household and ask the Lord to show the women in your extended family how to expand His kingdom in their community through hospitality.
And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "LOVE WILL COVER A MULTITUDE OF SINS." Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. (1 Peter 4:8-9).

THE NETHERLANDS – PORT OF ROTTERDAM

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. (1 Timothy 4:12).

The economy of the Netherlands has grown at an average annual growth rate of 1.9% in the last four years. The Netherlands has Europe's fifth-largest economy, supported by exports of chemicals, refined petroleum, and electrical machinery and by a highly mechanized and profitable agricultural sector. The port of Rotterdam is 40km long and 10km wide and accommodates 30,000 oceangoing ships and 130,000 river ships each year and handles a total of 66.6 million tons of dry bulk cargoes, including 57.1 million tons of imports and 9.5 million tons of exports. Thank the Lord our Sustainer for the economic growth in the Netherlands. According to the World Economic Forum, the Netherlands ranks as the third most educated country. Pray for the salvation of young people who know nothing about Christ. Pray that they will testify openly of God as their strength and so inspire others to surrender their lives to God as well. Ask for their protection and for them to live pure and holy lives.

TUESDAY: 1 AUGUST 2023

SERVANTHOOD

*But Martha was distracted with **much serving**, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." (Luke 10:40).*

Martha served Jesus and was willing to serve other guests that would accompany Him as well.

Consider:

- Am I mindful of others in the way I treat them? Do I honour others above myself?
- In conversations, do I listen with understanding to help or assist them?
- How accepting am I of others, irrespective of their status or background?

Let us pray:

- Pray for women in leadership positions of all spheres of influence – political, spiritual or community – to be servant leaders that will take the time to serve others with their skill and knowledge.

"...whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:43b-45).

BELGIUM – PORT OF ANTWERP-BRUGES

Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You? (Psalm 85:6).

Economic growth in Belgium is expected to reach 1.2% in 2023. Port of Antwerp-Bruges is the second largest port in Europe, with more than 300 liner services to more than 800 destinations, thereby ensuring worldwide connectivity. Every year, this port handles around 290 million tonnes of international maritime cargo and is home to Europe's largest integrated chemical cluster. The port employs, directly and indirectly, a total of around 164,000 people. Praise the Lord the Living Water for the economic growth in Belgium. Thank the Lord for international churches growing in their influence on both nationals and immigrants and for evangelical faith that has never been stronger. Ask the Lord for these churches to reach out to unbelievers in Belgium. Pray for the salvation of all people of Belgium. Ask that their conduct would draw many unto God, even more than their words. Pray for the nation to cry out to the Lord to mould them, break them so that they might be more conformed to His image.

WEDNESDAY: 2 AUGUST 2023

BEWARE OF DISTRACTIONS

But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." (Luke 10:40).

Martha did nothing wrong in serving, but her serving distracted her from Jesus.

Consider:

- Do you diligently serve the Lord but forget to sit at His feet?
- Have you made yourself guilty of frustration and criticism because you have taken your eyes off Jesus for a moment and started comparing yourself to others?

Let us pray:

- Pray for women who volunteer at shelters, orphanages, or have a vocation in public service e.g. police officers, medical personnel, social workers, etc.
Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2).

GERMANY – PORT OF HAMBURG

He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing. (Deuteronomy 10:18).

Germany's economy is adjusting to the disruption of gas deliveries from Russia and the industry has proved resilient to elevated production costs and equipment investment is set to recover as full order books boost manufacturing and exports. As a result, gross domestic product (GDP) growth is forecast to accelerate in 2023. The Port of Hamburg is Europe's largest railway port leading worldwide in many areas of hinterland connections by rail. It is the largest industrial area in northern Europe. Thank God to whom nothing is impossible for a forecast of growth in the economy of Germany. Due to the enormous influx of immigrants, Germany has roughly 5.5 million Muslims who had little to no access to the gospel. The opportunities are unprecedented and prayer movements, house churches and evangelical initiatives have the potential to reach those who are spiritually lost. Pray for the salvation of the immigrants and for a spiritual awakening among the spiritually lost of Germany. Pray for them to draw near to the God who sees them.

THURSDAY: 3 AUGUST 2023

TURN TO JESUS WHEN YOU ARE OVERWHELMED

*But Martha was distracted with much serving, and **she approached Him** and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." (Luke 10:40).*

Martha had the assurance that she can turn to Jesus when she feels overwhelmed.

Consider:

- When you are overwhelmed, who do you turn to?
- Are you willing to cry out for help or assistance when your workload is overwhelming?

Let us pray:

- Pray for mothers and grandmothers in your community who feel overwhelmed by their responsibilities or the hardships that they are facing right now. Ask that they will take liberty in approaching Jesus and make their hearts' cries known to Him.
Hear my cry, O God; Attend to my prayer. From the end of the earth I will cry to You, When my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. (Psalm 61:1-2).

SPAIN – PORT OF VALENCIA

"I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless." (Genesis 17:1b).

GDP growth is projected to slow to 2.1% in 2023. The Port of Valencia is a seaport in Valencia, Spain. It is the fifth busiest seaport in Europe and the busiest port in the Mediterranean. This port has an annual traffic capacity of 10% of the entire port – its main cargo is liquefied natural gas. Around 70% of the port's current traffic consists of iron and steel products and the rest of fertilizers, construction materials, timber and perishable products. The port is also an important employer in the area, with more than 15,000 employees. Thank the Lord God the All-Powerful for the economic growth in Spain. Spain currently has one of the lowest birth rates in the world. Pray for the salvation of women who cannot have children of their own. Ask that they will increase in godliness. Pray for them to hear the Lord's heart for their situation, to find peace, to believe in God's plan for their lives, and not to turn away from the Lord.

FRIDAY: 4 AUGUST 2023

CONTINUED AWARENESS OF GOD'S LOVE

But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." (Luke 10:40).

Martha's distraction lured her into a place of self-pity and feeling uncared for.

Consider:

- Do you feel disconnected from God and His affection towards you?
- Evaluate your times of prayer over the last while. Did you offer prayers out of frustration and self-pity or were your prayers an overflow of love, submission and surrender to our Saviour's lordship?

Let us pray:

- Pray for the body of Christ, in her pursuit to serve people, to always cast her burdens on the Lord with the assurance that He cares for her (1 Peter 5:7).
Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God...(Philippians 4:6).

ITALY – PORT OF GIOIA TAURO

Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD, The shield of your help and the sword of your majesty! Your enemies shall submit to you, and you shall tread down their high places." (Deuteronomy 33:29).

Italy's GDP expanded by 0.56% in the first quarter of 2023 over the previous quarter. The Gioia Tauro Harbour is the largest port in Italy for containers and contains 155 hectares for the storage of transshipment containers and 24 hectares for the storage of transshipment cars. It also has three hectares devoted to commercial and passenger traffic. A major role in limiting the growth of the port is played by the presence of organised crime ('Ndrangheta), infiltrating and conditioning the companies operating within the port. The 'Ndrangheta is a prominent Italian Mafia-type organised crime syndicate based in the peninsular region of Calabria. Praise the Lord the Sword for the economic growth in Italy. Pray for the salvation of all members of this crime syndicate within Italy. Pray for the heart, souls and minds of all these syndicate members to realise the love of God for them and accept Christ into their own lives. Pray for them to minister Christ to their family and friends.

SATURDAY: 5 AUGUST 2023

DO NOT WORRY

And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. (Luke 10:41)

Jesus addressed Martha by lovingly correcting her. He revealed the intent of her heart. Love was not motivating her to serve. Worry was.

Consider:

- Are you worried and troubled because of trying to do things in your own strength?
- Have a look at your current priorities. Are they centred around Christ?
- Ask the Lord to expose any false expectations or values that might have crept into your life and ask His forgiveness.

Let us pray:

- Lift mothers before the Lord in prayer who are often troubled and overwhelmed over the wellbeing of their children. Pray for them to seek the Lord for comfort, guidance and wisdom. *Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down, but an encouraging word makes it glad. (Proverbs 12:25, AMPC).*

FRANCE – PORT OF LE HAVRE

So don't hide your light! Let it shine brightly before others, so that the commendable things you do will shine as light upon them, and then they will give their praise to your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16).

Economic activity is set to remain subdued in 2023 (0.7% annual growth) after a significant slowdown in the second half of 2022. The Port of Le Havre is a multi-purpose port with a wide range of terminals that can process any type of cargo and passengers crossing the English Channel or aboard international cruise ships. As an important port for France's imports of crude oil, the Port delivers oil by pipeline to the large refineries in the Seine Valley and the Paris area. Give thanks to the Lord our Helper for the economic growth in France. France is home to The Taizé Community, an ecumenical Christian monastic fraternity in Taizé, Saône-et-Loire, Burgundy. With a focus on youth, it has become one of the world's most important sites of Christian pilgrimage with over 100,000 young people from around the world converging each year for prayer, Bible study, sharing, and communal work. Pray for these young people of the Taizé Community to pray for the salvation of the people of France and that they will openly witness Christ's love to the French and pray with them when they meet.

SUNDAY: 6 AUGUST 2023

INTIMACY WITH JESUS!

*And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But **one thing is needed**, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:41-42).*

Martha's answer to her plea was not what she **requested**, but what she **needed**.

Consider:

- Are you willing to accept Jesus' answer to prayer even if it is different to what you requested?
- In your serving of the Lord, are you obedient and teachable?

Let us pray:

- Pray that believers, in their pursuit of serving Jesus and expanding His kingdom, will do so from the non-negotiable relationship that is always necessary - intimacy with Jesus! *One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple. (Psalm 27:4).*

GREECE – PORT OF PIRAEUS

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world." (John 6:51).

The Economic activity of Greece is expected to grow by 2.4% in 2023. The Port of Piraeus is the main gateway for Greek imports and exports, and it is the only European port in the eastern Mediterranean that has the infrastructure and facilities to support large volumes of transshipment cargoes. It is the **largest passenger port in Greece**, with passenger traffic of almost **20 million** people annually. Praise the Lord the Bread of Life for the economic growth in Greece. There is a culture of corruption and bureaucracy involved in the Greek public healthcare sector that brings down the quality of care significantly. Pray for the mismanagement and lack of funding that contribute to the challenges in the healthcare sector. Pray for the leaders to know the Lord Jesus, and for every individual influencing the healthcare sector to have a personal revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ. Pray for them to hear the voice of the Lord, and to understand His purpose for their lives. Ask the Lord to advance those who walk in integrity.
