

Devotion For May 6, 2021

17 And He began to teach and say to them, "Is it not written, 'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL THE NATIONS'?" Mark 11:17

Today is the **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**. Since the earliest moments of our nation's history, our leaders have called for national days of prayer, repentance and fasting. In 1775 when an impasse had been reached at the Continental Congress, Benjamin Franklin stood and called for prayer with these words: He said, "I have lived, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, **that Almighty God** governs in the affairs of men... And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that a nation can rise without His aid? I therefore beseech you--that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Almighty God, and His blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly **every morning** before we proceed to business..."

Less than 100 years later, a concerned Abraham Lincoln called for national prayer in the midst of the Civil War. He said, "**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the United States; devoutly recognizing the Supreme authority and just government of Almighty God in all the affairs of men and nations, has, by a resolution, requested the president to designate and set apart a day for National prayer and humiliation. **And Whereas**, it is the duty of nations, **as well as its citizens**, to owe their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord."

Throughout our nation's history, many other presidents and leaders have called on the nation to turn to God in prayer. In 1952, President Truman signed a joint resolution of Congress, creating the National Day of Prayer, and in 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Ronald Reagan permanently setting aside the first Thursday of every May as **the National Day of Prayer**. Each year the president signs a proclamation encouraging all Americans to pray on this day

With today, May 6, 2021 being the National Day of Prayer, I would like to remind us of our duty to pray for our nation, but not because of what our President or Congress has said, but because of what the Bible says.

Jesus said in Mark 11:17 that " **'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL THE NATIONS'?**

Thought For Today and Today's Prayer Focus: On this National Day of Prayer in the United States, commit everything in your life to God. Seek His wisdom and favor. Pray for your nation and its leaders. Pray for churches and pastors. Pray for an outpouring of His Spirit. Deo Volente.