

November 8, 2020

Worship in the Synagogue

Luke 4:31-44

“Calling all prayer warriors!”

“Asking for prayers.”

#LetUsPray

If you’ve spent any time on social media, you might recognize the posts above. Many people use social media outlets for nothing more than sharing selfies and political opinions. But a number of Christians also use them to connect with others in times of need. “Many people turn to social media in times of crisis to request prayer for themselves or others. We can intentionally include these pleas not only in a spur of the moment prayer but in other daily prayer practices.”¹ By seeing the needs of our friends and family in black and white, we can pray more intentionally for them.

Social media provides a platform for prayer and also for worship. Many churches livestream their services. There are pages devoted to every age, location, and denomination. There are prayer groups, praise groups, Sunday school groups, and groups for specific causes. Social media is responsible for a great deal of division, but it can also be used to bring people of faith together. It can offer healing to those who are wounded and hurting.

The student book author writes, “[P]art of the purpose of worship is to celebrate God’s victory over evil and to anticipate the healing of the resurrection....All of the church’s efforts to fight the corruption and evil of the world participate in this fight against the demonic forces, however we understand them.”² We are part of the church that fights the good fight through worship and prayer wherever we are, on- or offline. As the hymn “We Are the Church” tells us:

“The church is not a building;
the church is not a steeple;
the church is not a resting place;
the church is a people.”³

1. How can social media be used as a tool for worship and healing?
2. What are some advantages of social media worship and prayer?
3. Have you joined any worship services or groups online? Why or why not?

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¹<https://www.membershipvision.com/blog/praying-in-the-digital-space/>

²From Adult Bible Studies, Fall 2020, by Chuck Aaron (Cokesbury, 2020); page 103.

³*The United Methodist Hymnal*, page 558.

