

PRAYING LIKE JESUS (Part 5)
John 21:15-19

I. GIVE US

- A. Don't Spiritualize This Petition.
 - 1. Many of the early church leaders, such as Jerome, Origen, and Augustine taught that this petition was for the same bread Jesus refers to when he says, "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35).
 - 2. Bread means food. We often forget the deep poverty of the people to whom Jesus preached and taught.
- B. A Culture of Affluence.
 - 1. In John 21:15-17, what does Jesus tell Simon Peter to do to show his love?
 - 2. It's tempting to think it's all about us.
 - 3. In Matthew 25, how did Jesus describe those "blessed by my Father" and inheritors of the kingdom?
- C. The Proper Use of Prosperity.
 - 1. If we have food in the refrigerator, clothes on our back, and a roof over our head, we are richer than 75% of the world.
 - 2. "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much will be asked" (Luke 12:48).

II. FORGIVE US

- A. *"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Mt. 6:14-15).*
- B. Forgiveness Is Foundational.
 - 1. Forgiveness is not optional!
 - 2. Of all the petitions Jesus gives us in this prayer, he only emphasizes one.
 - 3. God does not forgive us on an exchange basis. Our forgiveness of others is a condition of our ability to receive God's forgiveness.
- C. Gratitude and Grace.
 - 1. Nothing hurts God more than ingratitude.
 - 2. When we live without gratitude, it is impossible to act with grace.
- D. Revenge or Reconciliation?
 - 1. Transform revenge fantasies into reconciliation fantasies.
 - 2. "Do I not destroy my enemy when I make him my friend?" (Abraham Lincoln)
 - 3. "I will not permit any man to narrow or degrade my soul by making me hate him." (Booker T. Washington)

Prayer Concerns: Members – Margaret Baker, Burney Biesel, Nancycathryn Crane, Dr. Gordon Freeman, Fay McDowell, Sylvia Palmer ... **Friends** – Bobby Borden, Pat Bryan, Bill Dean, Tina Gatlin, Jere Gifford, Joanna Grathwell, Kathy Greer, **Brandon Hurst**, Jackson Ingram, Dillon LaRue, Robert Lee, **Ron McMillan**, Macy Morgan, Betty Murray, Eddie Mae Schaeffer, **Linda Petrie**, Violet Stout, Mike Thompson, **Steven Wachtler** ...

PASTORAL PRAYER

O Loving God, for the beauty of this day, for this time of worship, for the joy of friendship and family – for all this, we give thanks. Here in the midst of so much beauty, we confess that we often bring our own clouds with us, and our lives become shadowed and dark.

How quickly and easily we judge one another. We who are in need of so much grace, we have so little to share with one another. How angry we get, how easily hurt, and we start judging people and things through a filter of disappointment.

O God, every one of us has little gifts to lay on your altar, and what makes life good, what gives it texture and meaning, is that all our gifts are different, even our wisdom different. Then as we keep on making or own gifts, help us to be less critical of the gifts others keep making. Bind us together into a caring fellowship, and then maybe our own hurt will fade away because we are too busy reaching out to others.

Let this happen in our lives as we worship and in this week to come, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER (to be sung): **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

JOHN 21:15-19

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he said to him, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you girded yourself and walked where you would; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish to go.” (This he said to show by what death he was to glorify God.) And after this he said to him, “Follow me.”

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

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| August 19 | <i>Praying Like Jesus (Part 6)</i> | Matthew 18:15-17, 21-35 |
| August 26 | <i>What's Worth Wanting?</i> | Luke 12:13-21 |
| September 9 | <i>True North Principles</i> | Luke 12:32-40 |

On the Radio (1450 AM):

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| August 19 | <i>You Can't Take It with You</i> | James 5:1-6 |
| August 26 | <i>We Interrupt This Broadcast</i> | James 5:7-12 |
| September 2 | <i>Tell Me Where It Hurts</i> | James 5:13-20 |