
CBC WEEKLY RESOURCES



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AUGUST 10TH, 2025
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC 28741

I.

SERMON RECAP

In this powerful exploration of Exodus 17:8-15, we're invited to discover the profound impact of intercessory prayer. The story of Moses, with his arms raised during the battle against the Amalekites, serves as a compelling metaphor for our own prayer lives. We learn that prayer isn't always about words, but about our posture before God. The staff in Moses' hands symbolizes the authority and power God gives us in prayer - to guide, defend, protect, and rescue those we love. This passage challenges us to view prayer not as a solitary act, but as a communal effort, reminding us of the importance of supporting one another in our spiritual battles. As we reflect on this, we're encouraged to raise our own 'holy hands' in prayer, creating a spiritual barrier against the forces that seek to harm our families, our church, and our communities. This message invites us to approach prayer with a new perspective, focusing less on what we say and more on our willingness to be vessels for God's power and guidance.

II.

STUDY GUIDE

- Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the significance of intercessory prayer through the story of Moses, Aaron, and Hur during the battle against the Amalekites. It emphasizes the importance of raising holy hands in prayer, not just as a physical act but as a spiritual posture of surrender, blessing, and wielding God's power. The message encourages believers to understand their role as shepherds in their spheres of influence, using prayer as a means of guidance, protection, and rescue for others.

Key Points:

- The wilderness experience as a time of preparation and reflection
- The significance of the staff as a symbol of God's power and guidance
- Prayer as more about posture and faith than words spoken
- The importance of community support in maintaining prayer
- Raising holy hands in prayer as an act of surrender, blessing, and spiritual warfare
- The role of the Holy Spirit in guiding our prayers
- The need for perspective and reflection in our busy lives
- The power of intercessory prayer in protecting and blessing others

Scripture Reference:

- Exodus 17:8-15 (primary passage)
- 1 Timothy 2:8
- Romans 8:26
- Galatians 6:9
- Isaiah 59:19
- Ephesians 4:3

Stories:

- Moses and the battle against the Amalekites
- The pastor's personal anecdote about praying with a friend
- Brief mention of Jesus' wilderness experience and solitary prayer times

Here are the scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon, along with some relevant verses for the main themes discussed:

Explicitly Mentioned:

1. Exodus 17:8-15
2. Mark 1:35
3. Matthew 14:23
4. Luke 6:12
5. Matthew 26 (Gethsemane)
6. Romans 8:26
7. 1 Timothy 2:8
8. Galatians 6:9
9. Isaiah 59:19
10. Ephesians 4:3 (alluded to)
11. Psalm 113:3

Alluded to or Implied:

1. Psalm 23:1 ("The Lord is our shepherd")
2. Matthew 4:1-11 (Jesus' temptation in the wilderness)
3. Genesis 12:1 (Abram sent out)
4. Philippians 3:14 (press on toward the goal)

Relevant verses for main themes:

1. Wilderness experiences and trials:

- James 1:2-4
- 1 Peter 1:6-7

2. Prayer and intercession:

- Ephesians 6:18
- Colossians 4:2
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17

3. Spiritual warfare:

- Ephesians 6:10-18
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

4. Leadership and guidance:

- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Psalm 32:8

5. Unity in the church:

- 1 Corinthians 1:10
- Colossians 3:14

6. Blessing others:

- Numbers 6:24-26
- 1 Peter 3:9

7. Surrendering to God:

- James 4:7
- Romans 12:1-2

8. Waiting on the Lord:

- Isaiah 40:31
- Psalm 27:14

III. DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide based on the themes from the transcription:

Day 1: Finding Strength in the Wilderness Reading: Exodus 17:8-15, Mark 1:35-39

Devotional: Just as Moses found himself in the wilderness before leading the Israelites, we often encounter our own "wilderness experiences." These times of trial and testing are not punishments, but opportunities for growth and preparation. In the wilderness, we learn to rely on God's strength rather than our own.

Jesus himself sought solitude to pray and reconnect with the Father. When life feels overwhelming, remember that these challenging seasons are shaping you for a greater purpose. Take time today to find a "solitary place" where you can be still before God. Ask Him to reveal His presence and guidance in your current circumstances.

Reflection: What "wilderness" are you facing right now? How might God be using this experience to prepare you for future ministry or leadership?

Day 2: Raising Holy Hands in Prayer Reading: 1 Timothy 2:8, Psalm 141:2

Devotional: The image of Moses raising his hands in prayer, supported by Aaron and Hur, reminds us of the power of persistent, faith-filled intercession. Prayer is not about eloquent words, but about positioning our hearts before God in surrender and expectation.

When we raise our hands in prayer, we're symbolically lifting our concerns to God while also demonstrating our openness to receive from Him. This posture of prayer can help us focus on God's power rather than our own limitations. Today, find a private place where you can physically raise your hands in prayer. As you do, imagine yourself holding a "staff" representing God's authority and power in your life. Pray for guidance, protection, and rescue for yourself and others, trusting that God is working even when you can't see immediate results.

Reflection: How might incorporating physical postures into your prayer life deepen your connection with God?

Day 3: The Power of Unity in the Body of Christ Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6, Psalm 133

Devotional: The story of Aaron and Hur supporting Moses' arms illustrates the importance of unity and mutual support in the body of Christ. We are not meant to fight our spiritual battles alone. When we come together in prayer and support one another, we amplify our spiritual effectiveness.

Just as a divided army is weakened, a church divided by conflict loses its spiritual power. Unity doesn't mean uniformity, but rather a shared commitment to Christ and His mission. Today, consider how you can be an "Aaron" or "Hur" to someone in your faith community who may be growing weary in their spiritual journey.

Reflection: Who in your life needs support in "holding up their arms" in prayer or ministry? How can you practically encourage and uplift them this week?

Day 4: Trusting God's Perspective in Battle Reading: 2 Kings 6:15-17, Romans 8:31-39

Devotional: Moses' vantage point on the hilltop gave him a different perspective on the battle below. Similarly, we need to seek God's higher perspective in our daily struggles. Often, we can become so focused on our immediate circumstances that we lose sight of the bigger picture of what God is doing.

Elisha's servant couldn't see God's protection until his spiritual eyes were opened. We too need to ask God to open our eyes to His unseen work in our lives and in the world around us. When we trust in God's perspective, we can face our battles with confidence, knowing that ultimate victory is assured in Christ.

Reflection: What situation in your life do you need to view from God's perspective? Ask Him to give you spiritual insight and renewed trust in His sovereign control.

Day 5: Leaving a Legacy of Faith Reading: Hebrews 11:23-29, 2 Timothy 1:3-7

Devotional: Moses' faithfulness in prayer and leadership left a lasting impact, not just on Joshua who fought the battle, but on generations to come. The writer of Hebrews includes Moses in the "Hall of Faith," reminding us that our acts of obedience and trust have far-reaching consequences.

Like Moses, we have the opportunity to leave a legacy of faith for those who come after us. This legacy is built not on grand gestures, but on daily choices to trust and obey God. Whether you're a parent, mentor, or friend, your faithful prayers and godly example can profoundly influence others.

Reflection: What spiritual legacy are you building through your life? How can you intentionally invest in the faith of the next generation?

IV. SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

Key Takeaways:

1. Wilderness experiences are often times of training, reflection, and preparation for future ministry.
2. Prayer is more about our posture and dependence on God than the words we say.
3. Raising hands in prayer symbolizes surrender, blessing, and wielding spiritual authority.
4. Intercessory prayer involves guidance, defense, protection, and rescue for others.
5. We need community support in our prayer life to avoid growing weary.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you experienced a "wilderness" period in your life? How did it prepare you for future challenges or ministry?
2. The sermon emphasizes that Moses didn't speak during his intercession. How does this challenge your view of effective prayer?
3. What does it mean to you to "raise holy hands" in prayer? How might this physical posture affect your prayer life?
4. The sermon mentions three purposes of a shepherd's staff: guidance, defense/protection, and rescue. How can we incorporate these aspects into our intercessory prayers?
5. Who are the "Aaron and Hur" in your life that support you in prayer? How can we better support each other in our prayer lives?
6. The sermon talks about putting a "moat" or "standard" around those we pray for. What does this imagery mean to you in practical terms?
7. How does the idea of "listening more than speaking" in prayer challenge or encourage you?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, try praying with your hands raised, even if it feels uncomfortable at first. Reflect on how it impacts your prayer experience.
2. Choose one person or situation to intercede for daily this week. Focus on guidance, protection, and rescue in your prayers.
3. Reach out to a prayer partner or form a small prayer group to support each other in maintaining consistent intercessory prayer.
4. Practice silent prayer, focusing more on listening and being aware of God's presence rather than speaking.
5. Identify areas in your life where you need to surrender control to God. Use raised hands as a physical symbol of this surrender during your prayer time.
6. Reflect on how you can be a "prayer covering" for your family, friends, or church. Make a commitment to regularly intercede for them.
7. Keep a prayer journal this week, noting any insights or directives you feel God gives you during your times of quiet listening in prayer.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

-There will be a Praise and Worship night on Sunday, August the 31st, at 6:00pm. Join together in a night of fellowship and celebration!

-Family Service is Sunday morning, August the 31st! There will not be any children's services, as everyone will be worshipping in the sanctuary together.

-The Lee University Singers are leading CBC in worship on August the 24th. We need families to host the students from Friday the 22nd- Sunday the 24th. If this is something you would like to help out with, please reach out to the church.

Have a great week in The Lord!