



Week 3 (10/15-10/21) Watch and Learn: Prayer Moments

I want to thank you for joining us during this Month of Prayer at HCC.

We started with a reminder from Pastor Tom about the spiritual battle that we are all involved in, simply by virtue of us being alive, but as Christians we are given tools, or Armor, that we can defend and arm ourselves with.

Last week, Pastor Milt led us through the Lord's prayer using the 5 P's to help us understand how a simple poem from Jesus could set our hearts right, and give us a better perspective on how to approach God.

This leads us to now, week three of this 5-week series where we will look at some prayers throughout the Bible. At first, this seemed like a daunting task- realizing that throughout the Bible are over 200 examples of prayers- and that doesn't include the mentions of people going off to pray.

So many prayers came to mind in the past few weeks of preparation for this week...including Abraham's intercessory prayer for Sodom and Gomorrah where he actually had a conversation with the Angel of the Lord- Probably Christ himself.

Moses' has quite a few examples of conversations with God- like on Mount Sinai when he received the law, or at the burning bush when he was called by God to go before Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

David has dozens of examples throughout his walk with God, many being in the Psalms. Some to commemorate a special event like his being anointed as king. Some prayers of repentance- most notably Psalm 51. Some songs of thanksgiving, and praise.

As we look through the Bible there were so many examples of prayer as literal conversations with God, or people interceding on the behalf of others, or as songs. In fact, prayer by God's people could even be a simple conversation among friends.

The one I'd like to focus on is from Job 31, specifically focusing on verse 35.

Job is in the midst of being told by three of his friends that he needs to repent or find out why he caused God's judgment to come upon his life. Job finally speaks out and defends himself. Before we get to the specific verse- let's remember that Job lost everything, his wealth-

or security, his fields- or his livelihood, his workers- or his business, and in case that wasn't enough, he lost his children- or his legacy. Then his health was hit- or his ability to build back everything he lost. Things were so bad, that his wife- who, and lets have some grace on her, endured every loss that Job endured except the health issues, finally comes to the end of herself and encourages Job to "curse God and die". Yet, through all of this Job does not sin with his lips. Its at this point that Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar come and meet with Job.

After quite a few exchanges, and Job having been told by his 3 friends that all this calamity was most likely his fault- he speaks out in Job 31. What is interesting about this is that this is not a typical prayer- most of what Job is saying is directed at the friends- and yet in the midst of this he throws out a statement towards God.

Oh, that I had one to hear me!

(Here is my signature! Let the Almighty answer me!)

Oh, that I had the indictment written by my adversary!

Let the Almighty answer me- such small statement compared to the chapter- and yet it's the statement that gives us chapters 38-41- one of the best pictures of just how amazing God is, how much power he has, and a small glimpse into His sovereignty.

After God gives Job so much to think about- Job's response shows why God chose to allow Satan to test him.

In 42:1-6 we read:

42 Then Job answered the LORD and said:

² "I know that you can do all things,
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
³ 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?'
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.
⁴ 'Hear, and I will speak;
I will question you, and you make it known to me.'
⁵ I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees you;
⁶ therefore I despise myself,
and repent in dust and ashes."

But now my eyes see you...

Let us remember that all words, not just the ones we direct towards God, but each and every word we utter, or even think goes before God, is heard by God, and is answered by God.