

Holy Ground

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-5 Larry: Office Closed. Peru. A21. C@R.
- B. Pastor Rick Mossa's Retirement party: Oct.27 right after 3rd service. *Lunch.*
- C. Slide6 Prayer is a reminder we live in **2 realms**: *the physical world we see, & the spiritual world we don't see. The natural world we live in, & the supernatural world God lives in.* Prayer is inviting the **supernatural** world into our **natural** world. It's **taking hold of The One who took a hold of us.**
- D. **Prayer**: The curtain is pulled back. We are invited to come in **with** our great High Priest, into the Holiest place. Before we do...*we remove our shoes*, for this is **holy ground**.

II. Intro: Holy Ground [not the Taylor Swift song]

- A. Slide7 When I was just a few months out of High School, in 1979, **Sting** of the English Rock band **The Police** came out with their epic song *Message in a Bottle*. Rolling Stone Magazine ranked it #65 on its list of the **100 Greatest Guitar Songs of All Time**.
 1. The message is about a **castaway**, alone on an island who says...
I'll send an S.O.S. to the world. I hope that someone gets my...I hope that someone gets my...I hope that someone gets my...message in a bottle.
 2. **Then** in the **3rd stanza**, Walked out this morning I don't believe what I saw. A hundred billion bottles washed up on the shore. Seems I'm not alone in being alone. A hundred billion castaways looking for a home.
 - a) A lot of times it feels like **prayer** is this same way. We are alone on an island. **And** we carefully tuck our prayer, into a bottle, **and then** throw that bottle out into a vast blue sea...just hoping someone, *preferably God*, would actually **read** it. **And then** maybe **respond**.
 - b) **But not for Jesus**. I guarantee this is *not* how He felt when **Praying**...*as we'll see. He prays with expectation & assurance. He's just talking to His Abba.*
- B. Slide8a **Jesus is praying**. We know that Jesus prayed. The gospels tell us that, but they hardly ever tell us **what** he prayed or **how** he prayed.¹

¹ Adapted from...Wright, T. (2004). John for Everyone, Part 2: Chapters 11-21 (p. 91).

1. We get a few glimpses: Matthew 11:25 *O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike.* And at the tomb of Lazarus Jn. 11:41,42 *Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe? 41 So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. 42 You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me.*
 2. So remember, this is a **prayer**. Not simply a theological treatise on prayer, with John putting ideas together and placing them on Jesus' lips.
- C. Have you ever sang in a choir or played in a school orchestra? If so, you've experienced music *happening all around you*, rather than coming at you from a speaker.
1. You & I are being **invited** to step into the heart of an *intimate relation* between Jesus and the father. Allow it to *happen all round you*.
 2. So yes, I'm **teaching** on His prayer but let's not miss **The Praying**.
- D. I've both been taught how to pray (bible studies) and I've listened to others pray (prayer mtg's).
1. Children learn how to speak by hearing others speak. They also learn how to speak properly by being schooled in their language.
 2. The disciples had ask Jesus, *teach us how to pray*. Jesus taught them *Our Father*
 3. But here, Jesus is praying out loud and the disciples are listening in. Jn.18:1
 4. And we can listen in too. This prayer, *it's so honest, so simple, so deep, so rich, so wide...no one can fathom it.* (Luther, loose quote)
- E. I picture Jesus walking toward **deaths door** *calmly, victoriously, joyously* & thinking, *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me.*
- F. Some have named this chapter: Jesus' High Priestly Prayer. The true Lord's Prayer.
- G. This is the **longest prayer** by Jesus in 2 ways: in length & in scope (covers then, till now).
1. Yet it could be read at pulpit speed in only 3 minutes.

- H. Slide8b Ch Outline: *Jesus prayed for Himself* (1-5). *Jesus prayed for His present disciples* (6-19). *Jesus prayed for His future disciples* (20-26) [see yellow highlights]
- I. Slide9 Mary, Queen of Scots, aka *Bloody Mary* (because she sent some 290 evangelical church leaders to their deaths) opposed John Knox w/a passion.
1. John Knox was a Scottish minister, theologian and writer, who was a leader of the country's Reformation. Founder of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland.
 2. Bloody Mary banished him from his pulpit, but couldn't extinguish his *flaming influence*. Once she admitted, *she feared the prayers of John Knox as much as the combined armies of Scotland*.
 3. As John Knox **lay dying** he whispered to his wife to read from the passage where he had *cast his first anchor of faith*...the 17th ch of the Gospel of John.
 - a) He had this prayer read to him **daily** during his last illness.

III. Slide10a **GLORIFY (1)**

- A. Does it sound really spiritual when you hear someone say, *I don't pray for myself?*
1. Jesus 1st thing on His *prayer agenda* was *prayer for Himself*. Just remember, *It's commanded. It's biblical. It's obedience. It's in the Lord's prayer. It's following in the footsteps of Jesus.*
- B. Slide10b Lifted up his eyes – *Do you ever lift your eyes in your prayer time?*
1. Don't only bow your head *lift it up*. To **who** our Ruler is & to **where** our citizenship lies. Don't look to the *past in regret*, nor to the *future w/fear*.
 2. As the **needle** of a **compass** is constantly feeling the *pull North*, so should **our hearts & eyes** be constantly feeling the *pull Heavenward*.
 3. Ps.121 *I lift up my eyes to the hills From where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.* (a song of ascent, Tab on Temple Mnt)
- C. Coming just moments before Gethsemane, it is amazing our Lord's **attitude** of **mind & heart** as He faced the great event of the cross.
- D. Slide10c **Father** - Prayer starts with Father.

- E. He starts out hallowing His Fathers name. (6 x's 1,5,11/holy Father,21,24,25/rt Father)
1. John uses father **127 x's** in his gospel.
- F. Slide10d Glorify - *glorify Me so I can glorify You.*
1. *Some men become **proud and insolent** because they ride a fine horse, wear a feather in their hat or are dressed in a fine suit of clothes. Who does not see the folly of this? If there be any **glory** in such things, the **glory** belongs to the horse, the bird and the tailor.* - St. Francis de Sales
(Sain François de Sal) **Gentleman St**, cuz his **patience/gentleness** esp thru Reformation
- G. Jesus asks to be glorified 2 times & in 2 ways: In His **crucifixion** (vs.4 *on earth/earthly*) & In His **glorification** (vs.5 *in Your presence/heavenly*).
1. How would He glorify His Father? By **obeying** Him.
 - a) A **child** brings **honor** to his **parents** when he brings **obedience** to his **parents**.
A **citizen** brings **honor** to his **country** when he brings **obedience** to his **country**.
A **student** brings **honor** to his **teacher** when he brings **obedience** to his **teacher**.
- H. Slide10e The hour *of supreme sacrifice* has come - Jesus *fully conscious* of what was comin
- I. Slide10f **That** the Son may glorify You - *That* signals **purpose**, which answers **why?**
1. Jesus' prayer was full of **purpose** as **that** occurs **19 x's** in His prayer.

IV. Slide11a **ETERNAL LIFE** (2,3)

- A. This is **eternal life** - not as a *definition* per se, **but** as a **manifestation** (i.e. *demonstration, exhibition, a show*). We have a hard enough time defining **natural life** in *all that it is...let alone **eternal life?***
1. **And** not just having a **conscious existence forever**, **but as **knowing God**** which is **real quality life**.
 2. It's a relationship, **knowing both** the Father & Jesus.
- B. Slide11b Merrill Tenney suggests that, *life is active involvement with environment; death is the cessation of involvement with the environment.*
1. **A caterpillar** has an **earthly life**, in that its environment is the **dirt** in which it lives. It has **no capacity** to interact with an environment of **water** or **air**.

2. **But a caterpillar** can also have a life that is **not earth bound**, but it must take on a **transformed life**.
 3. Similarly, human beings have **biological life** that enables them to interact with the realm of life **on earth**. Human beings have no native capacity to interact with the realm of the **spiritual & eternal**... **UNLESS** they have come to **know God** through **Jesus Christ & have been given eternal life** by **God**.
- C. **Slide11c** Knowing God - Jer. 9:23,24 *Thus says the Lord: Let not the **wise** man boast in his **wisdom**, let not the **mighty** man boast in his **might**, let not the **rich** man boast in his **riches**, 24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he **understands** and **knows me**, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things **I delight**, declares the Lord.*
1. **Slide11d** It is knowing Him **Intellectually** – (that he **understands**...Me)
 2. It is knowing Him **Intimately** – (that he **knows** Me. Knows/yada = an intimate knowledge of God)
 3. It is knowing Him **Morally** – (that I am the Lord who practices/exercises **steadfast love, justice, and righteousness**)
- D. We know God as **ours**, because He knows us as **His**.
1. **Knowing God is: Knowing what God is like & to be on the most intimate terms of knowledge of friendship w/Him. Do you know Him?**
 2. **For your prayer life: don't focus on prayer, focus on getting to know God as Father and just talk to Him.**
 3. **And don't look to how other religious people pray, just watch how children come to their parents and bring requests. We don't teach our toddlers how to approach us or how to bring requests.**
- E. **Authority** - He prays that His God given **authority** over men's souls might move **from the realm of promise to the realm of fulfillment**.
1. He is glad to have authority, only that He may use it to **give life**.
 - a) **Why do you enjoy your authority?** to give life or to use your power over someone?
- F. Did you know that **believers** are the Father's **gift** to the Son? (see 2,6,9,11,12 **given**)
1. Just as **Jesus** is the Father's **gift** to us (3:16).

V. Slide12 IT IS FINISHED (4,5)

- A. I have glorified you on the earth - *by* His doctrine, miracles, sufferings, & death to come.
- B. I have finished the work - Completed assignment. Jesus speaks *as if* He had already passed through death & were pleading before the throne.
1. Do your prayers **sound like** you're standing right in front of God's throne, **or** more like **the muffled sound of 2 cans w/a long string** stretching from here to the moon? **Or** like the **sound of a splash of a message in a bottle?**
- C. He had finished the work??? **But**, He was only 33. **And** He only reached 11 men in depth. *Wasn't His life a tragic waste by being cut so short?*
1. Only when seen from a **limited** perspective.
 2. Man focuses on **immediate** results, God, on **ultimate** results.
 - a) **We see** only the **seed** that is sown or, at best, *the sprout*. **He sees** *the harvest*.
- D. Slide13 William Barclay tells a story of a *famous painting* from the **1st world war**. It showed an **engineer** fixing a **field telephone line** which was essential. He had just completed the line so that the essential messages might come through...when he was shot. The picture shows him in the moment of death, & beneath it there is the one word, **Through!** He had *died*, he had **given his life**, *that* the message might get **through**.²
1. That is exactly what Jesus did. **He** had completed His task. **He** got the Fathers message through loud & clear. **He** had brought Gods love to man.
 2. He **died** to save you & He's **dying** to save you.
- E. The glory which I had w/You before - Jesus asks for *His old robe back*...the *royal garment of glory*. Which of course the Father was delighted to fulfill.
1. **Jesus** was like a knight who left the Kings court to perform some perilous duty, & who having performed it, came home **in triumph** to enjoy the Victor's Glory.

² William Barclay pg.241