

“3 Requests!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Joseph Scriven** never intended the hymn “**What a friend we have in Jesus**” for publication.
 - 1.1.1. Upon learning of his mothers serious illness & unable to be w/her in far-off Dublin(He had moved to Ontario, Canada), he wrote her a letter of comfort enclosing the words of this text.
 - 1.1.2. “What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins & grief to bear!
What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer.
O what peace we often forfeit. O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer.”
 - 1.1.3. Every word & every line in Ps.141 is a prayer!
 - 1.1.3.1. We also often forfeit peace, & go through needless emotional pain, All because we don’t carry **everything** to God in prayer!
- 1.2. **Q: Why is it that it is so hard to pray?**
 - 1.2.1. I had to re-learn how to pray during my down time w/my neck.
 - 1.2.2. I suggest 3 reasons why we don’t pray as we ought:
 - 1.2.3. **[1] We don’t know our God very well** – “**For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,**” says the LORD.” (Is.55:8)
 - 1.2.3.1. Because we are not like God & do not know Him well, we are usually unsure what we should pray for.
 - 1.2.4. **[2] We don’t know our Bible very well** – Our ignorance of God is traceable to our ignorance of the bible. God has revealed His thoughts & His ways in the bible(*what we can now understand*).
 - 1.2.4.1. Our ignorance of God is not His fault; it is ours!
 - 1.2.4.2. If we want to pray well, we must know the bible well.
 - 1.2.5. **[3] We don’t feel we need God’s help** – We often think we can manage well w/o God.
 - 1.2.5.1. By instinct we pray when things fall apart.
 - 1.2.5.2. But others times we feel very self-sufficient!
- 1.3. **Outline: 3 Requests** – A request for God to **Listen!** A request for God to **Sanctify!** A request for God to **Protect!**

2. A REQUEST FOR GOD TO LISTEN! (1,2)

- 2.1. (1) “Lord, come quickly to the rescue!”
 - 2.1.1. **Invocation!** (Lat. “in=on; vocare=to call) – Have audience w/God; come into His presence; count it a privilege not a duty.
 - 2.1.2. A simple man used to start his prayers with “**Hello, Jesus, this is Jim**”. At the end of his life a friend was standing by Jims side when he said, “Jesus just came, & do you know what He said to me? He said, **Hello Jim, this is Jesus!**”
- 2.2. (2) David was not in the temple, nor was he a priest, but he sees the deep spiritual significance behind the “evening sacrifice”.
 - 2.2.1. “The spirit of the worshiper is to be the essence of the sacrifice.”
 - 2.2.2. He has caught the meaning of this **disciplined devotion**, & applied to his own praying.
 - 2.2.3. **See** the daily offering in **Ex.29:38-42**
 - 2.2.3.1. Here David fully **surrenders** to the Lord, & **totally** gives himself...like the evening sacrifice.
 - 2.2.3.2. For the **morning sac.** see **Ps.5:1-3** “Give ear to my words, O LORD, Consider my meditation. Give heed to the voice of my cry, My King and my God, For to You I will pray. My voice You shall hear in the **morning**, O LORD; In the **morning** I will direct it to You, And I will look up.”
 - 2.2.4. The highest form of worship is **giving yourself** to the Lord.
- 2.3. **Incense** – The incense on the altar was **mixed** together carefully.
 - 2.3.1. **Ex.30:34,35** And the LORD said to Moses: "Take sweet spices, stacte and onycha and galbanum, and pure frankincense with these sweet spices; there shall be equal amounts of each. "You shall make of these an incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer, salted, pure, and holy.
 - 2.3.2. **We should mix our prayers carefully also.** {Mix it up w/the sweet aroma of **Adoration**, the cologne of **Confession**, the perfume of **Petition**, the fragrance of **Thanks**, & the spices of **Submission** unto Him.}
 - 2.3.3. **Rev.8:1** “And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.”

- 2.3.4. Allow the H.S. to **ignite** the altar of your soul! – Do not pray from a cold heart!
- 2.4. **Prayer Time** – Invoke God(ask for audience w/Him).
 - 2.4.1. If the highest form of worship is giving yourself to the Lord, decide to do that now.
 - 2.4.2. Offer yourself on Gods altar, picture your prayers as incense ascending up.

3. **A REQUEST FOR GOD TO SANCTIFY! (3-7)**

- 3.1. (3) What grows naturally out of vs.2 of **pure prayer**,...but a sanctification of our **mouth & lips!**
 - 3.1.1. Out of the same mouth there must not flow both **blessing & cursing** as James told us.
 - 3.1.1.1. James 3:10 “**Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.**”
 - 3.1.1.2. Xenocrates, the head of the famous Athenian Academy from 339-314bc, said, on one occasion, “I have often repented of having **spoken**, but never of having been **silent**.”
- 3.2. When evil is near you & evil people temp you it is easy to say the wrong thing (as was happening in David's life at the time).
 - 3.2.1. If the house of God needed its guards & doorkeepers, how much more the man of God?
 - 3.2.2. Jesus said, “I am the **door!**” (He loves fulfilling that office!)
- 3.3. **Prayer Time** – Let's ask the Lord to purge our unclean lips(like Isaiah) by taking a coal off the altar & touching it to our lips.
 - 3.3.1. Let's ask the Lord to help us take advantage of the **2 sets** of doors He has equipped us w/to guard our mouth(our teeth & lips).
- 3.4. (4) Now the prayer deepens & widens, going behind the **lips**, all the way down to the heart of the matter,...or the matter of the **heart!**
 - 3.4.1. Lk.6:45 “**For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.**”
 - 3.4.2. Here he addresses 3 things:
 - 3.4.2.1. **Desires**(heart) – “lead us not into temptation.”

- 3.4.2.2. **Deeds**(works) – David is not too good for evil people; he is too much like them & therefore likely to be swept away by their wickedness if in their company.
 - 3.4.2.2.1. Thus the need to be careful in our personal relationships, & partnerships in business.
- 3.4.2.3. **Dainties** – C.S.Lewis said, "...All mortals tend to turn into the thing they are pretending to be."
 - 3.4.2.3.1. If you pretend to act like your worldly friends, pretty soon you will be them!
- 3.4.3. If our heart is **corrupt**, our speech & action will be **corrupt** also!
- 3.4.4. If our heart is **pure**, our speech & action will be **pure** also!
 - 3.4.4.1. But isn't our hearts incurable? Didn't Jeremiah say, "**The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?**" (NIV-Jer.17:9)
 - 3.4.4.1.1. Yes, so we need a heart transplant! & only God can give us one!
 - 3.4.4.2. Yes but later Ezekiel added, "**I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you**" (Ezek. 30:36:26)
 - 3.4.4.3. Only those given a **new heart** will start **speaking** only wholesome words & begin to **act** in a wholesome matter.
- 3.5. **Prayer Time** – Desires(heart). Reach way down past our lips & clean the "well" of our heart Lord.
 - 3.5.1. **Deeds** – Lord, what evil thing have I inclined my heart to?
 - 3.5.2. **Dainties** – Where are you most tempted to compromise?
- 3.6. (5) Prov.27:6 "**Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.**"
 - 3.6.1. They may hurt, but like oil, they heal.
 - 3.6.1.1. Oil was always helpful & refreshing.
 - 3.6.1.2. Prov.9:8 "**Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.**"
 - 3.6.1.3. Prov.15:31 "**The ear that hears the rebukes of life Will abide among the wise.**"
 - 3.6.1.4. Prov.17:10 "**Rebuke is more effective for a wise man Than a hundred blows on a fool.**"
 - 3.6.2. In yesterdays "**Daily Bread**" the quote read "**Being too nice can be a disguise for cowardice.**"

- 3.6.2.1. Confronting a friend in an illicit relationship; or a family member becoming an alcoholic; or a buddy with a gambling addiction; or a co-worker trusting in his/her works to get them to heaven; all are not being judgmental but instead is biblical.
- 3.6.3. **Q: Is it “nice” to live by the motto...** “If you never tell me that anything I’m doing is wrong, I’ll never tell you that anything you’re doing is wrong.”
 - 3.6.3.1. Sometimes being “nice” isn’t nice!
- 3.6.4. Someone said, “If one man calls you a donkey, pay him no mind. If two men call you a donkey, get a saddle.”
- 3.6.5. True friendship doesn’t flatter; it speaks out even though the words may sting!
- 3.6.6. David’s pray was answered later when he “did not refuse it” ...from Nathan!
- 3.7. (6) When their leaders fall they are never to rise again, then they would turn to him(David) & take delight in listening to his(David’s)voice.
 - 3.7.1. This is possible written when David was king but fleeing from Absalom, or right before he was king & Saul was in pursuit of him.
- 3.8. (7) This image is most likely speaking of the germ of hope of Israel’s **Resurrection**, even as plowing is for the sake of a new crop.
 - 3.8.1. This also is expanded in the famous prophecy of **Ezek.37**. Where the bones of Israel will come to life. **Read vs.11-14**.
- 3.9. **Prayer Time** – Help me to **expect** rebuke. - Help me to **evaluate** it. Help me to **receive** rebuke(let my head not refuse it!). - Help me to **wait on the Lord** w/it.

4. **A REQUEST FOR GOD TO PROTECT! (8-10)**

- 4.1. (8) The prayer is over. David is about to make his way from worship, back out into the world.
 - 4.1.1. **Q:** What should happen to us as a result of the time spent w/God?
 - 4.1.2. David says that we should leave w/our eyes fixed on God!
 - 4.1.3. **My eyes are upon You!** – Keep your eyes of faith on the Lord, & he will direct & protect your steps(see next vs.).

- 4.1.4. **Example:** Fishing boat in Alaska. Asked me if I wanted to drive. Then he showed me **look straight** at a specific point on the island out in front of us.
 - 4.1.4.1. When Zach started driving he would go to change lanes on the freeway, & as he would be looking over his right shoulder behind him, which way do you think we started swerving?
 - 4.1.5. Here's the key...**"Where we look is the direction we go!"**
- 4.2. (9) **Snares & traps** - If our **eyes are fixed** on God we will be able to **walk safely** through these many dangers & temptations.
- 4.3. **End:** Here is the secret of an **effective godly life** & the point at which all **true worship** should begin & end...**"looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith."**
- 4.4. **Last Prayer Time**(Worship team come up)
 - 4.4.1. I will find my refuge in you, & not in other things the world has to offer.
 - 4.4.2. Keep me from the snares & traps of the enemy(as my enemy seeks to sift me as wheat!)
 - 4.4.3. Help me to escape from my enemies hurtful words, backbiting, gossip, or evil stares.
 - 4.4.4. Lord I am again "fixing my eyes on you"...Let nothing in this world blur my vision of you!