

**PRAYER**  
**FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD**  
**March 13, 2010**

This morning's cartoon "One Big Happy" was particularly related to today's lesson.

- In frame one Ruthie on her knees by her bed as she speaks to God "It's really weird. Sometimes my friends act all nice to me and ask me to help 'em with stuff"
- In frame 2, she continues "And other times they act like I don't even exist!"
- In frame 3, Ruthie is shown letting out a big "sigh".
- Concluding in frame 4, Ruthie finishes her prayer by saying "I'm telling you this because I heard that you have the same problem with people"

Isn't it the truth!!!!!!!

**James 5:**

- 13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.
- 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.
  - These verse show us that we need to share our sufferings, victories and illnesses with one another!
- 15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.
  - This does not say that all these ills are caused by sins, but some are.
- 16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
  - We should also share our sins with one another.

What is prayer?

- Asking for something humbly and earnestly
- Entreaty for something
- Asking for counsel
- An inquiry
- Talking

What can you pray for?

**Psalms 32:**

- 3 When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long.
- 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer.
  - Keeping your thoughts inside can cause you physical illness
- 5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah
- 6 For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You In a time when You may

**PRAYER**  
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be found; Surely in a flood of great waters They shall not come near him.

○ Pray for forgiveness

**Psalm 69:**

- 5 O God, You know my foolishness; And my sins are not hidden from You.
- 6 Let not those who wait for You, O Lord GOD of hosts, be ashamed because of me; Let not those who seek You be confounded because of me, O God of Israel.
- 7 Because for Your sake I have borne reproach; Shame has covered my face.
- 8 I have become a stranger to my brothers, And an alien to my mother's children;
- 9 Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up, And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.
- 10 When I wept and chastened my soul with fasting, That became my reproach.
- 11 I also made sackcloth my garment; I became a byword to them.
- 12 Those who sit in the gate speak against me, And I am the song of the drunkards.
- 13 But as for me, my prayer is to You, O LORD, in the acceptable time; O God, in the multitude of Your mercy, Hear me in the truth of Your salvation.

○ Pray a plea for help in a time of trouble

**Judges 18:**

- 2 So the children of Dan sent five men of their family from their territory, men of valor from Zorah and Eshtaol, to spy out the land and search it. They said to them, "Go, search the land." So they went to the mountains of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, and lodged there.
- 3 While they were at the house of Micah, they recognized the voice of the young Levite. They turned aside and said to him, "Who brought you here? What are you doing in this place? What do you have here?"
- 4 He said to them, "Thus and so Micah did for me. He has hired me, and I have become his priest."
- 5 So they said to him, "Please inquire of God, that we may know whether the journey on which we go will be prosperous."

○ Pray asking God for advice

**2 Chronicles 20:**

- 1 It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat.
- 2 Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar" (which is En Gedi).
- 3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.
- 4 So Judah gathered together to ask help from the LORD; and from all the cities

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**March 13, 2010**

of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

- Pray asking God for help

**Zechariah 10:**

- 1 Ask the LORD for rain In the time of the latter rain. The LORD will make flashing clouds; He will give them showers of rain, Grass in the field for everyone.
  - Yes, you can also ask for rain

**Psalms 55:**

- 16 As for me, I will call upon God, And the LORD shall save me.
- 17 Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice.
  - Pray evening, morning and noon – I suspect this is the source of those who believe they need to pray at the beginning of each meal.

In the New Testament, the Greek word for prayer focuses more on the aim, rather than the content. It includes worship and praying earnestly

**Matthew 5:**

- 43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'
- 44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,
- 45 "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.
- 46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?
- 47 "And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?
- 48 "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.
  - Pray for your enemies

**Matthew 6:**

- 6 "But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.
- 7 "And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.
- 8 "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.
- 9 "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

**PRAYER**  
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**March 13, 2010**

- 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.
- 11 Give us this day our daily bread.
- 12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.
- 13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.
  - Pray privately
  - This is the Model Christ gave us to pattern our prayers after

**Matthew 26:**

- 36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there."
- 37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.
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- 40 Then He came to the disciples and found them asleep, and said to Peter, "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour?"
- 41 "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."
  - Pray for deliverance from temptation

**Mark 9:**

- 17 Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit.
- 18 "And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not."
- 19 He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me."
- 20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.
- 21 So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood.
- 22 "And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."
- 23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."
- 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"
- 25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!"
- 26 Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he

**PRAYER**  
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- became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead."
- 27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.
  - 28 And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?"
  - 29 So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."
    - Pray to cast out demons
    - This one is particularly difficult for most of us because it requires divine revelation of a demon actually in existence

**Mark 11:**

- 12 Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry.
- 13 And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.
- 14 In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." And His disciples heard it.
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- 20 Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.
- 21 And Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away."
- 22 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God.
- 23 "For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.
- 24 "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."
  - Ask for whatever you want

**Mark 13**

- 31 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.
- 32 "But of that day and hour (*of His return to Earth and the resurrection*) no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, ***nor the Son***, but only the Father.
- 33 "Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is."
  - Pray for things not revealed

**Ephesians 6:**

- 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;
- 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--

**PRAYER**  
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**March 13, 2010**

- 19 and *for me* (Paul), that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,
- 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.
  - Pray for the ministry and all the saints

**1 Thessalonians 5:**

- 16 Rejoice always,
- 17 pray without ceasing,
- 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
  - Pray without ceasing – not without stopping, but with consistency

**Luke 10:**

- 1 After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.
- 2 Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.
  - Pray for workers of the faith – for help and assistance

**James 5:**

- 16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
  - The prayer must be effective
  - It must be fervent
  - And it must come from a righteous person

**John 14:**

- 13 "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
- 14 "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.
- 15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.
- 16 "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever--
- 17 "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.
  - Ask whatever you ask for "in Jesus' name"
  - AND – keep His commandments!

Jesus' Final Prayer is in John 17. We will be reading it in earnest at Passover.