

[REDACTED]

LUKE 11:1 "HE WAS PRAYING IN A CERTAIN PLACE AND WHEN HE CEASED, ONE OF HIS DISCIPLES SAID TO HIM, 'LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY, AS JOHN TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES'."

THEME: "THE ROYAL REQUEST"

WE HAVE LOOKED, THESE PAST WEEKS, AT THE NEED, THE CALL, AND THE GIFT OF JESUS. AND, THIS MORNING WE COME TO CONSIDER THE GROWTH THAT WE MUST ANTICIPATE AND APPROPRIATE, AS CHRISTIAN DISCIPLES. THIS ENTIRE SERIES DEALS WITH THE WORD. ~~TO~~ ^{CHRISTIAN} WITNESS HAS CONSTANTLY BEEN STRESSED. SO, AS WE THINK OF OUR CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT, WE ~~WANT~~ ^{NEED} TO THINK ESPECIALLY OF PRAYER AND THE GATHERED FELLOWSHIP, THE BODY OF CHRIST, THE CHURCH, TRINITY CHURCH!

HAD I BEEN ANY OF OUR LORDS ORIGINAL DISCIPLES, I BELIEVE I ~~COULD HAVE~~ ^{BEEN} THE ONE THAT VOICED THIS ROYAL REQUEST, "TEACH US TO PRAY!", ~~PRAYER~~ ^{IS OUR} INDEED ~~IS OUR~~ GRANDEST AVENUE INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD!

~~THIS WAS~~ ^{THIS WAS} IN THE ENTIRE NEW TESTAMENT, ~~THE ONLY~~ ^{TIME} ON RECORD ~~THAT~~ ^[HOW TO DO SOMETHING.] JESUS WAS EVER ASKED TO TEACH HIS DISCIPLES ~~...~~.

NO ONE EVER REQUESTED GUIDANCE IN PREACHING OR TEACHING, OR HELP IN ANY

OTHER AREA OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRY. ONE THING WAS FELT TO BE EXTREMELY

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NEEDFUL... COMMUNICATION WITH THE CREATOR, FATHER GOD.

THE PERTINENT POINT THAT WE WANT TO ^{MAKE} HERE ~~IS~~ IS THE FACT THAT THIS DISCIPLE CAME TO JESUS WITH HIS EARNEST DESIRE. HE DID NOT GO TO THE TEMPLE, OR THE SYNAGOGUE, OR TO ANY OF THE RELIGIOUS GUIDES OF THE JEWISH FAITH. ~~HE~~ HE ^{PRESENTED} HIS SINCERE WISH AT THE FEET OF OUR LORD FOR THREE REASONS.

(1) ^{FIRST} THIS MAN CAME TO JESUS BECAUSE ~~HE~~ OUR LORD HAD A TIME FOR PRAYER.

THE GOSPEL OF MARK REVEALS THAT ^{JESUS} ~~HE~~ WAS UP LONG BEFORE DAYBREAK.

(MARK 1:35) NOW I CERTAINLY CANNOT PROVE THAT THIS WAS JESUS' HABITUAL PERIOD FOR COMMUNION WITH ^{THE} ~~THE~~ FATHER, BUT I BELIEVE IT WAS! AND SPEAKING FROM ^{THE} ~~THE~~ EXPERIENCE, ^(OF MANY) ~~THE~~ THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN ^{THEIR DAYS} ~~THE~~ WHEN ^{THEY} ~~THEY BEGIN ^(THE DAY) ~~THE~~ EARNESTLY SEEKING HIS PRESENCE AND GUIDANCE! IT IS THEIR "QUIET TIME" WITH GOD.~~

RALPH CUSHMAN WRITES ^{IN HIS} ~~HE~~ POEM ENTITLED "THE SECRET".

I MET GOD IN THE MORNING WHEN THE DAY WAS
AT ITS BEST,

AND HIS PRESENCE CAME LIKE SUNRISE,

LIKE GLORY IN MY BREAST.

ALL DAY LONG THE PRESENCE LINGERED

ALL DAY LONG HE STAYED WITH ME,

AND WE SAILED IN PERFECT CALMNESS

OVER A TROUBLED SEA.

OTHER SHIPS WERE BLOWN AND BATTERED,

OTHER SHIPS WERE SORE DISTRESSED,

BUT THE WINDS THAT SEEMED TO DRIVE THEM,

BROUGHT US A PEACE AND REST.

THEN I THOUGHT OF THE OTHER MORNINGS

WITH A KEEN REMORSIVE MIND,

WHEN I TOO HAD LOOSED THE MOORINGS,

WITH THE PRESENCE LEFT BEHIND.

SO I THINK I KNOW THE SECRET LEARNED

FROM MANY A TROUBLED WAY:

YOU MUST SEEK HIM IN THE MORNING

IF YOU WANT HIM THROUGH THE DAY.

DR. KLINE

IN A SMALL CHURCH THAT SERVED, MANY YEARS AGO, IN SOUTHEASTERN OHIO, IT WAS THE CUSTOM TO HAVE A YEARLY SERIES OF REVIVAL MEETINGS. AND, THE DECISION WAS MADE TO SPONSER TWENTY-FOUR HOUR PRAYER VIGIL FROM SATURDAY EVENING TO SUNDAY EVENING, WHEN THE SERVICES WOULD OFFICIALLY BEGIN.

FROM THE CONGREGATION

THERE WAS GOOD RESPONSE AND EACH HOUR FOUND SEVERAL PEOPLE PROMISING TO PARTICIPATE. AT LAST, EVERY PERIOD HAD BEEN ASSIGNED WITH THE LONE EXCEPTION OF ONE EARLY MORNING HOUR.

FROM OHIO

AT LENGTH, A YOUNG BANKER COMBOLTON, RELUCTANTLY WROTE HIS NAME DOWN IN THE FINAL EMPTY SPACE.

"I FAVORED THE VIGIL", HE CHUCKLED, "BUT I DID NOT PLAN TO GET UP THIS EARLY."

WAS MANY YEARS

BANKING

THAT [REDACTED] AGO AND NOW, AS AN INFUENTIAL EXECUTIVE, [REDACTED] IN CAMBRIDGE, HE STILL KEEPS HIS MORNING PRAYER TIME WITH THE LORD ... AND [REDACTED] EVERY MORNING!

OHIO

HE DOES IT

"I FOUND," HE SAID, "THAT THIS WAS MY ONLY QUIET TIME AWAY FROM PHONES, AND NOISE, AND DISTRACTIONS. I WOULD NOT MISS [REDACTED]"

~~THIS~~ THIS HOUR WITH CHRIST ~~FOR~~ FOR ANYTHING."

THE DISCIPLES SAW IN JESUS THAT WHICH WAS SO LIKE GOD! AND THEY WANTED IT! IF OUR LORD DID NOT HAVE MORNING TIME WITH HIS FATHER, HE DID HAVE SOME TIME. DON'T MISS YOUR PRAYER TIME, MORNING, NOON, EVENING, NIGHT ... NOTHING CAN ^(OR SHOULD) EVER REPLACE IT!

(2)

~~THE~~ SECOND POINT -

~~THIS~~ THIS DISCIPLE CAME TO JESUS BECAUSE OUR LORD HAD A PLACE FOR PRAYER. HE WAS PRAYING IN A CERTAIN PLACE. NOW, THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THE WORLD CANNOT BE YOUR "PRAYER PARISH", YOU CAN PRAY ANYWHERE, INDEED, EVERYWHERE! BUT IT IS TO PLEAD THIS MORNING FOR A PARTICULAR LOCALITY WHERE YOU ARE WELCOMED INTO THE KING'S PRESENCE... TO HAVE AUDIENCE WITH HIM.

REMEMBER, JUDAS NOT ONLY BETRAYED OUR LORD, ~~HE~~ HE BETRAYED JESUS' PLACE OF PRAYER! NO SPOT, ~~IS~~ IS MORE SACRED, NO PLACE IS MORE NEEDED!

DR. KLINE TELLS US!!!

I I HAVE A PLACE ... SOMETIMES I CAN COME INTO MY HOME WHEN THE DAY HAS BEEN DIFFICULT AND THE VERY PLACE WILL REMIND ME WHERE CHRIST HAS MET ME IN THE TIMES PAST. I'VE GONE THERE WITH MY JOY,

AND HE SHARED IT! I'VE GONE THERE WITH MY EMPTINESS AND LONE-
LONELINESS, AND HE HAS FILLED IT! I'VE GONE THERE WITH MY GRIEF,
AND HE HAS BORNE IT! I'VE GONE THERE WITH MY SURRENDER, AND HE

ALWAYS BLESSED IT!" IF YOU HAVE A "PRAYING PLACE", YOU ARE
BLESSED. IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE THINK ABOUT A PLACE WHERE
YOU AND YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER CAN QUIETLY HAVE A CONVERSATION.

THERE WAS /
A FARMER WHO HAD TWO SONS. HIS WIFE, WHO WAS A
CHRISTIAN, HAD DIED, AND HE WAS MAKING THE EFFORT TO GUIDE THESE
YOUNG MEN IN THE CHRISTIAN WAY.

EACH MORNING, JUST PRIOR TO DOING THE DAYS CHORES, THE BOYS
NOTICED THAT THEIR FATHER DISAPPEARED FOR A TIME AND THEY WONDERED ABOUT
HIS ABSENCE. BUT, DURING HIS LIFE, THEY NEVER LEARNED THE SECRET OF
WHERE HE WENT, OR WHAT HE DID.

ONE DAY, MONTHS AFTER THEIR FATHER'S DEATH, THEY WERE AT WORK IN THE BARN,
AND, SUDDENDLY, ONE OF THEM DISCOVERED A SPOT IN THE REAR OF
THE BARN. HE THOUGHT THE PLACE WAS COMPLETELY FILLED WITH HAY,
THEN HE MADE ANOTHER DISCOVERY. ON A BALE IN THE CORNER
WAS AN OPEN BIBLE AND IN THE FRONT OF THE BALE WERE TWO WORN PLACES
ON THE GROUND. PLACES THAT HAD TAKEN A LONG TIME TO DEPRESS!

HE CALLED TO HIS BROTHER AND THEY STOOD IN REVERENT SILENCE

BEFORE THE SCENE OF HOLINESS. AT LENGTH, ONE OF THEM SAID,

"SO THAT'S WHERE HE WAS AND WHAT HE WAS DOING!" AND THE OTHER

ANSWERED, "I'M JUST WONDERING HOW MANY OF THOSE PRAYERS WERE

SAID FOR US." THEN ONE LAD KNELT IN ^(ONE OF HIS FATHER'S) KNEE PRINTS AND THE SECOND

^(AND THEY SILENTLY PRAYED TOGETHER) KNELT IN THE OTHER. WHEN THEY GOT UP, THEY ROSE WITH THEIR

FATHER'S GOD IN THEIR HEARTS.

^(PRAYING) DO YOU HAVE A PLACE... WILL YOU FIND ONE?

^(FOR THE DISCIPLE'S REQUEST) THERE IS A THIRD REASON, AND IT IS AN URGENT ONE! JESUS.

(3)

HAD A POWER IN PRAYER. HERE WAS HIS GREAT SOUL STRENGTH! "NOT MY WILL, BUT THINE BE DONE." (LUKE 22:42)

ALTHOUGH THESE WORDS ARE ONLY FOUND IN CONNECTION WITH THE

GETHSEMANE PASSION, THEY WERE REALLY THE FAITH FOUNDATION OF HIS

ENTIRE LIFE! LISTEN TO HIS WORDS IN SIMILAR VAIN (JOHN 14:9)

^(WHO) "HE HAS SEEN ME, HAS SEEN THE FATHER." THAT IS NOT SHALLOW

SURRENDER, THAT IS THE DEEPEST DEDICATION!

THERE IS AN OLD STORY WHICH I AM SURE MOST OF US CAN EASILY

IDENTIFY. A LADY PASSING A METHODIST PARSONAGE OBSERVED THE

MINISTER'S SON PLAYING IN THE FRONT YARD. "WHAT'S YOUR FATHER DOING THIS MORNING?" SHE ASKED. "OH," WAS THE RESPONSE, "THE BISHOP HAS OFFERED HIM A BIGGER APPOINTMENT AND HE IS PRAYING ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT HE SHOULD ACCEPT." "THAT'S INTERESTING," SHE ANSWERED, "WHAT IS YOUR MOTHER DOING?" "PACKING!" WAS HIS IMMEDIATE REPLY. ~~_____~~ ^{ALL} TOO OFTEN, THAT ^{THE KNEE JERK RESPONSE TO A FLATTERING APPOINTMENT} ~~_____~~ ^{BY THE BISHOP.} HAS BEEN ~~_____~~ "NOT THY WILL, BUT MINE BE DONE!" HOW OFTEN HAS THAT HINDERED ~~_____~~ ^{THE} COMMITMENT AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE CAUSE OF JESUS CHRIST!

BUT FRIENDS, IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT WAY! ^{DR. KLINE HAS} ~~_____~~ A CLOSE FRIEND IN THE MINISTRY WHO IS SLOWLY DYING OF AN INCURABLE DISEASE.

NOT LONG AGO, ^{HE} ~~_____~~ WAS VISITING HIM ^{AFTER THE MAN} ~~_____~~ HAD JUST RETURNED FROM SEEING HIS PHYSICIAN. AND WHEN ^{DR. KLINE} ~~_____~~ ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY HOPEFUL NEWS, ^{HIS FRIEND} ~~_____~~ ONLY SHOOK HIS HEAD. ^{HERE WAS} ~~_____~~ A SINCERE

FOLLOWER OF OUR LORD, NOT YET FORTY, A LOVELY LIFE, ^{BEAUTIFUL} CHILDREN, AND

^{ONE WHO} ~~_____~~ LOVES TO PREACH! ^{DR. KLINE} ~~_____~~ ASKED HIM, "HOW DO YOU PRAY ABOUT IT?"

^{HIS FRIEND} ~~_____~~ LOOKED AT ^{HIM} ~~_____~~ AND FAIRLY BEAMED, "LARRY." HE ANSWERED, "THERE

IS JUST ONE PRAYER I CAN PRAY. NOT MY WILL, BUT THINE BE DONE!"

~~_____~~. I CAN THINK OF SEVERAL OTHER PRAYERS,
 ANYONE OF WHICH ^{HE} MIGHT VERY WELL HAVE PRAYED. ... LORD, LET
 ME RECOVER OR I WILL QUIT THE MINISTRY! ... FATHER, LET ME
 GET WELL OR I WILL DROP OUT OF THE CHURCH! ... LORD, HEAL ME OR
 I WILL ^{HAVE TO SLOW DOWN MY EFFORTS IN YOUR BEHALF.} ~~_____~~ ...

BUT THERE WAS JUST ONE PRAYER THIS YOUNG "GALLIHAD OF GETHSEMANE"
 COULD PRAY. AND, OH, THE GOLD IT IS BRINGING INTO THE TREASURE
 HOUSE OF THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW HIM! "NOT MY WILL,
 BUT THINE BE DONE!"

(4)

CONCLUSION ...

FINALLY, ~~_____~~ THE "ROYAL REQUEST" ... "TEACH US TO PRAY!"
 WAS PRESENTED TO JESUS BECAUSE OUR LORD HAD ~~■~~ VICTORY IN PRAYER.

~~_____~~ THE ONE MAKING THIS REQUEST, AS WELL AS THE OTHER
 DISCIPLES, HAD SEEN WHAT GOD'S POWER HAD DONE IN THEIR LORD'S
 LIFE! THEY KNEW SOMETHING OF THE BURDEN HE WAS BEARING, AND,
 WHEN HE WOULD RETURN FROM HIS ^{"PRAYER"} PLACE, IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT HIS
 PRAYER PILGRIMAGE ^{HAD RENEWED AND REFRESHED HIM!} ~~_____~~ SOME OF THEM HAD WITNESSED
 HIS ARREST. PETER HAD FOLLOWED TO THE ^{COURTYARD OF THE} HIGH PRIEST'S HOUSE.

JOHN HAD STOOD AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS. IT MUST ~~BE~~ ^{HAVE} AMAZED

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THEM THAT THERE WAS ~~NO~~ ^{No} HINT OF FRUSTRATION OR FEAR! IN

FACT, IF ONE FOLLOWS CLOSELY ~~THE~~ ^{JESUS} ARREST, TRIAL, AGONY AND DEATH,

~~THEY~~ JESUS SEEMS TO BE THE COMPLETE MASTER OF THE SITUATION!

~~THEY~~ THERE IS BUT ONE REASON FOR THIS ASTOUNDING TRIUMPH! OUR LORD HARBORED NO DOUBT AT CALVARY BECAUSE OF HIS DEDICATION IN GETHSEMANE.

AND HERE IS THE MIGHTY CLIMAX OF HIS VICTORIOUS PRAYER LIFE!

HIS FINAL WORDS ARE A PRAYER: "FATHER, INTO THY HANDS I COMMEND MY SPIRIT!" NOW THAT'S ENTERING THE GATES WITH YOUR FLAGS FLYING AND YOUR BANNERS STREAMING!

~~THEY~~ HIS VICTORY MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO BE VICTORIOUS!

~~HE~~ HE ~~SAYS~~ SAID IN JOHN 16:33, "BE OF GOOD CHEER, I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD!"

A FEW EASTER'S BACK, ~~THEY~~ ^{A YOUTH GROUP WAS} SHARING IN A DEVOTIONAL EXPERIENCE.

THE TOPIC WAS, "WHAT EASTER MEANS" ~~AND I WAS ASKING A GROUP~~ ^{EACH ONE IN THE} ~~WHAT~~ ^(WAS ASKED)

EASTER

MEANT TO THEM.

(11)

WITH A PROFOUND,
MEMORABLE
ANSWER.

~~AND, I SHALL NEVER FORGET WHAT~~ A YOUNG BOY RESPONDED ~~HE SAID,~~

"EASTER MEANS WHEN HE CAME ALIVE, WE COME ALIVE TOO!"

THROUGH PRAYER

YES, WE DO COME ALIVE TOO! THANK GOD!!! ~~AND FOREVER~~

LET US PRAY

FATHER GOD, WE COME TO YOU IN PRAYER THIS MORNING SEEKING ANSWERS TO OUR PERPLEXING PROBLEMS. WE ALL PRAY IN OUR OWN WAY, FATHER, BUT WE KNOW YOU HEAR US, AND WILL ANSWER. FATHER, GIVE US THE GRACE AND PATIENCE TO BE STILL. TO WAIT UPON YOU FOR YOUR GUIDANCE AND COMFORT. LET OUR PRAYERS BE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION WITH YOU AND HEAR YOUR ANSWERS MORE CLEARLY. IN JESUS NAME WE PRAY.
AMEN.