

Finding Jesus in His Prayers

Dr. Greg Smith

Course Description (from the COW Winter 2010 Brochure)

We often talk of prayer, yet rarely stop to explore the richness of Jesus' own prayers. Beginning with an exploration of the background of Jesus' life of prayer, we traverse the Gospel accounts of Jesus praying (including The Lord's Prayer, The Gethsemane Prayer, Prayers from the Cross, and Prayers from John's Gospel) and teaching about prayer, before concluding with discussion and application for us as 21st century disciples of Jesus.

Class Format

After an overview in the first session, we will explore one (or more) of Jesus' prayers each week. The instructor will facilitate student learning through the use of lecture, discussion, Scripture reading, and interaction with a variety of audio-visual resources.

Session 1: January 13

- Course Overview and Exploration of Participants' Expectations
- Personal Prayer Traditions and Experiences
- Jesus and Jewish Prayer Tradition and Experience
- Depictions of Jesus Praying in the Gospels

Session 2: January 20

- The Lord's Prayer/Matthew 6:9-13, part 1
 - Introduction to the Lord's Prayer
 - Beginning: Our Abba In Heaven
 - God-Centered Petitions
 - Hallowed be Your Name
 - Your Kingdom Come
 - Your Will be Done on Earth as in Heaven

Session 3: January 27

- The Lord's Prayer/Matthew 6:9-13, part 2
 - People-Centered Petitions
 - Give Us Today Our Daily Bread
 - Forgive Us Our Sins/Debts/Trespasses
 - Save Us in the Time of Trial and Deliver Us From Evil
 - Ending: For Yours is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory, Now and Forever. Amen.

Session 4: February 3

The Prayers of Jesus in John's Gospel

Gethsemane/ 12:27 (mentioned here – discussed in Session 6)

At Lazarus' Tomb/11:41

High Priestly Prayer/17:1-26

Session 5: February 10

The Prayers from the Cross

The Prayer of Forgiveness/Luke 23:34

The Cry of Desolation/Matthew 27:46

The Relinquishment/Luke 23:46

Ash Wednesday: February 17

No Class

Worship Service: 7:00 p.m.

Session 6: February 24

Prayer of Thanksgiving Amid Life's Reversals/Matthew 11:25-26

The Gethsemane Prayer/Mark 14:36

Following Jesus: Personal Prayer Practices

Course Evaluation

Recommended Books:

Barrs, Jerram. *The Heart of Prayer*, 2008. ISBN: 978-1-59638-103-2.

Shoemaker, H. Stephen. *Finding Jesus in His Prayers*, 2004. ISBN: 978-0-687-35253-1.

Sproul, R.C. *The Prayer of Our Lord*, 2009. ISBN: 978-1-56769-118-4.

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Finding Jesus in His Prayers – Session 1

Dr. Greg Smith

Course Overview & Exploration of Participants' Expectations

Personal Prayer Traditions and Experiences

Childhood Traditions

Denominational Traditions

Meaningful Experiences

Experiences During Hardships and Happiness

Current Practices

Jesus and Jewish Prayer Tradition and Experience

DVD – Scot McKnight: What was Spiritual Formation Like at the Time of Jesus?

McKnight's blog: <http://blog.beliefnet.com/jesuscreed/>

First Prayer Learned: Shema

Shema (Hear) – Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Optional: Deuteronomy 11:13-21 and Numbers 15:37-41

Shema plus becomes the Jesus Creed/Greatest Commandment – Mark 12:28-31

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength (Deuteronomy 6:4-5).

The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself (Leviticus 19:18).

There is no commandment greater than these.

Shema of Judaism: Love God (by following Torah)

Shema of Jesus: Love God (by following Jesus) and love others

Kaddish (Sanctification)

Magnified and sanctified be his great name in the world He created according to His will.

May He establish His kingdom during your life and during your days, and during the life of all the house of Israel, speedily and in the near future.

And say Amen.

Kaddish plus becomes the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)

Kaddish of Judaism: Petition for God's glory

Kaddish of Jesus: Petition for Abba's glory and petition for others

Tephillah (Prayer)

Included in afternoon prayer

Benediction blesses Yahweh as God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as "Most High God and Master of heaven and earth . . . our shield."

Shoemaker suggests we can understand Jesus' life of prayer

By His Praying:

1. Jesus participated in the daily rhythm of Jewish prayers: every morning, afternoon and evening.
2. Jesus prayed the Hebrew blessings before and after meals.
3. Jesus prayed the prayers of the weekly Shabbat service in the synagogue, "as his custom was" (Luke 4:16).
4. Jesus engaged in extemporaneous and private prayer.
5. Jesus prayed prayers of blessing and intercession.

By His Teaching on Prayer:

1. No show-offy prayers
2. No long-winded prayers
3. No embarrassed prayers

Depictions of Jesus Praying or Teaching About Prayer in the Gospels

Note: #1 - #9 will be discussed in upcoming sessions

Matthew 5:43-45: Teaching to Pray for those who Persecute You

#1 Matthew 6:5-15: The Lord's Prayer (also Luke 11:1-4)

#2 Matthew 11:25-26: Prayer of Thanks Amid Life's Reversals

Matthew 14:22-25 (also Mark 6:45-48): Mountainside Prayer Alone (before walking on water)

Matthew 19:13-15: Praying for the Little Children

Matthew 21:18-22 (also Mark 11:20-24): Teaching on Praying with Faith

#3 Matthew 26:39 (also #8 John 12:27 and Luke 22:42): Gethsemane

#5 Matthew 27:46: The Cry of Desolation

Mark 1:35-39: Early Morning Prayer

Mark 14:22-25: Prayer of Thanks at the Lord's Supper

Luke 5:15-16: Often Withdrew to Pray

Luke 6:12-16: Mountainside Prayer (before calling the twelve)

Luke 6:27-29: Teaching to Pray for those who Mistreat You

Luke 9:28-36: Transfiguration

Luke 10:21-22: Thanks to the Father

Luke 18:1-8: Parable About Persistent Prayer

#4 Luke 23:34: Prayer of Forgiveness

#6 Luke 23:46: The Relinquishment

#7 John 11: 41-42: At Lazarus' Tomb (before raising Lazarus)

#8 John 12:27 (also Matthew #3 26:39 and Luke 22:42): Gethsemane

#9 John 17:1-26: High Priestly Prayer

Finding Jesus in His Prayers
Session 2: The Lord's Prayer, Part 1 of 2
Dr. Greg Smith

Introduction to the Lord's Prayer

Background

Kaddish (Sanctification)

Magnified and sanctified be his great name in the world He created according to His will.
May He establish His kingdom during your life and during your days, and during the life
of all the house of Israel, speedily and in the near future.
And say Amen.

Kaddish plus becomes the Lord's Prayer

Kaddish of Judaism: Petition for God's glory

Kaddish of Jesus: Petition for Abba's glory and petition for others

Amidah (Standing) or 18 Benedictions

Benediction 6

Forgive us, our Father, for we have sinned against You. Blot out and remove our
transgressions from before Your sight, for your mercies are manifold. You are praised, O
Lord, who abundantly pardons.

Benediction 9

Bless, O Lord our God, this year for us, let it be good in all the varieties of its produce.
Hasten the year of our redemptive End.
Grant dew and rain upon the face of the earth, and satiate the world out of the
treasuries of your goodness; and grant a blessing to the work of our hands.

Agur's Prayer in Proverbs 30:7-9

"Two things I ask of you, O Lord; do not refuse me before I die: Keep falsehood and lies
far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread.
Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or I may
become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.

Biblical Text/Context

Matthew 6:9-13 as a part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

Teaching follows Jesus urging disciples privately and without babbling (v.5-8)

"This, then, is how you should pray: " 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. '

Luke 11:2-4

Teaching follows disciples observing Jesus in prayer and then asking for help in developing their own prayer lives (v.1)

He said to them, "When you pray, say: " 'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation. ' "

Matthew		Luke	
v.9	This, then, is how you should pray:	v.2	He said to them, When you pray, say:
v.9	Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name,	v.2	Father hallowed be your name,
v.10	Your kingdom come your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.		Your kingdom come.
v.11	Give us today our daily bread.	v.3	Give us each day our daily bread.
v.12	Forgive us our debts as we have also forgiven our debtors.	v.4	Forgive our sins for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.
v.13	And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.		And lead us not into temptation.

Assumption that Disciples Pray

Versions

King James of Mt. 6:-9-13	FPC Naples	Modern
Our Father which art in heaven,	Our Father who art in heaven,	Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.	hallowed be thy name.	hallowed be your name
Thy kingdom come.	Thy kingdom come.	your kingdom come
Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.	Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.	Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.	Give us this day our daily bread,	Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.	and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.	Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.	And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.	Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen	For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.	For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Names

Lord's Prayer

Our Father/Pater Noster

Model Prayer

Private Prayer

Public Prayer

Jerram Barrs

Short Prayer

Simple Prayer

Plain Prayer

Confident Prayer

The Beginning: Our Abba in Heaven

Our

Father - Abba

In Heaven

God-Centered Petitions

Hallowed by Your Name

Your Kingdom Come

Your Will be Done on Earth as in Heaven

Finding Jesus in His Prayers
Session 3: The Lord's Prayer, Part 2 of 2
Dr. Greg Smith

Structure

Beginning

3 God-Centered Petitions

3 People-Centered Petitions

Ending

People-Centered Petitions

Give Us Today Our Daily Bread

Forgive Us Our Sins/Debts/Trespasses

Save Us in the Time of Trial and Deliver Us from Evil

Ending: For Yours is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory, Now and Forevermore

The Lord's Prayer in my Life

Praying the Lord's Prayer

Using the Lord's Prayer as a Model for Prayer

Friends of the Groom Skit (<http://fog.homestead.com/>)

Finding Jesus in His Prayers
Session 4: The Prayers of Jesus in John's Gospel
Dr. Greg Smith

Gethsemane

John 12:27 (mentioned today – discussed in Session 6: Mark 14:36)

"Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say?

'Father, save me from this hour'?

No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.

At Lazarus' Tomb

John 11:41-42

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said,

"Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

More Complete Story/Context of Chapter 11

1 Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. **2** This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair. **3** So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." **4** When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." **5** Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. **6** Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days. **7** Then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." **8** "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you, and yet you are going back there?" **9** Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light. **10** It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light." **11** After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." **12** His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." **13** Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. **14** So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, **15** and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." **16** Then Thomas (called Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Jesus Comforts the Sisters

17 On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. **18** Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, **19** and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. **20** When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. **21** "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. **22** But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." **23** Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." **24** Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." **25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; **26** and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" **27** "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world." **28** And after she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." **29** When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. **30** Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. **31** When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. **32** When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." **33** When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. **34** "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. **35** Jesus wept. **36** Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" **37** But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead

38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. **39** "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." **40** Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" **41** So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "**Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.**" **43** When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" **44** The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

The Plot to Kill Jesus

45 Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him. **46** But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. **47** Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin . . . " **53** So from that day on they plotted to take his life. **54** Therefore Jesus no longer moved about publicly among the Jews . . .

High Priestly Prayer

John 17:1-26 (*italics = glory / bold = unity*)

Jesus Prays for Himself

1 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. *Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.* **2** For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. **3** Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. **4** *I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.*

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

5 *And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.* **6** "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. **7** Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. **8** For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. **9** I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. **10** All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. *And glory has come to me through them.* **11** I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name--the name you gave me--**so that they may be one as we are one.** **12** While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. **13** "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. **14** I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. **15** My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. **16** They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. **17** Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. **18** As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

Jesus Prays for All Believers

19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. **20** "My prayer is not for them alone. **I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,** **21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.** May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. **22** *I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one:* **23** **I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.** **24** "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. **25** "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. **26** I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

Context: Occurs in Jesus' Farewell Speech (John 13:31 – 17:26)

Glory

Of Eternity (v.5, 24)

On Earth (v.4)

In Jesus' Death (v.1)

Of God's People (v.10, 22)

Future Glory (v.24)

Jesus' Prays for Us (as he faces certain death)

1. Jesus prays that we might be kept in the Father's name, just as Jesus kept his disciples, and that we might be protected from the evil one (v.11, 12, 15).
2. He prays that we might have the full measure of his joy within us (v.13).
3. He prays that we might be sanctified by the truth of the Father's Word as we go out into the world, just as Jesus himself was in the world (v.14-19).
4. He prays that we might be with him and see his glory (v.24).
5. He prays that we might be one (v .11, 20-26)

Unity of Trinity

Unity of Church

Hindrances

Experiences

Possibilities: Christian Churches Together in the USA
www.christianchurchestogether.org/

Finding Jesus in His Prayers
Session 5: The Prayers from the Cross
Dr. Greg Smith

Seven Words from the Cross

1. Luke 23:33-34 (The Prayer of Forgiveness)
When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals--one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.
2. Luke 23:39-43
One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."
3. John 19:26-27
When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.
4. Matthew 27:45-46 (The Cry of Desolation)
From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ""Eloi, Eloi," "lama" "sabachthani?""--which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
5. John 19:28-29
Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.
6. John 19:30
When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.
7. Luke 23:44-46 (The Relinquishment)
It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

Seven Words from the Cross

After each Scripture reading, congregation
sings Chorus and soloist sings one verse

Words and Music by C. Boydston
Arr. K. Ward

- 1. Luke 23:33-34 5. John 19:28-29
- 2. Luke 23:39-43 6. John 19:30
- 3. John 19:26-27 7. Luke 23:44-46
- 4. Matthew 27:45-46

Chorus (Congregation)

Dm Em Dm Em

In this hour be - fore Your death,

5 Dm Em Bm Am

speak Your word with ho - ly breath.

10 *Soloist (or small group)*

Em Bm

1. Fa - ther, for - give these venge - ful few, for
2. Tru - ly I tell you, you will be to -
3. Wo - man, I say to you and John: here

14 Am Em Bm Em

they do not know what they do.
day in Par - a - dise with Me.
is your moth - er, here is your son.

Seven Words from the Cross

20 Am Em Bm

4. Dark - ness and gloom and ag - o - ny; My

with intensity
24 Am Em

God, _____ My God, _____ My God, why have You for -

30 Bm Em

sak - en _____ Me? _____

34 Am Em Bm

5. I am thirst - y, yet as a sign, they

38 Am Em Bm Em

of - fer on - ly bit - ter _____ wine. _____

Seven Words from the Cross

a cappella
44 Am

6. It is fin - ished!

48 Am Em Bm

7. Fa - ther, I cry in an - guish and com -

52 Am Em Bm Em

mit My spir - it in - to Your hand.

Detailed description: This block contains three systems of musical notation for the song 'Seven Words from the Cross'. Each system consists of a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in bass clef. The first system (measures 44-47) is marked 'a cappella' and 'Am'. The second system (measures 48-51) is marked 'Am', 'Em', and 'Bm'. The third system (measures 52-55) is marked 'Am', 'Em', 'Bm', and 'Em'. The lyrics are: '6. It is finished!', '7. Fa - ther, I cry in an - guish and com - mit My spir - it in - to Your hand.'

Seven Words from the Cross

Words and Music by C. Boydston

In this hour be - fore Your death,
speak Your word with ho - ly breath

Detailed description: This block contains two systems of musical notation for the second part of the song. Both systems are in treble clef. The first system (measures 1-2) contains the lyrics 'In this hour be - fore Your death,'. The second system (measures 3-4) contains the lyrics 'speak Your word with ho - ly breath'.

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The Prayer of Forgiveness

Luke 23:33-34

When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals--one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "**Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.**" And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

Jesus' prayer on the cross was the beginning of a forgiveness movement that has reached around the world; two thousand years later it is still at work healing the deepest wounds of humanity. (Stephen Shoemaker, *Finding Jesus in His Prayers*, p.72)

Shoemaker's Twentieth Century Examples

1. AP Photograph
2. Civil rights leader John Lewis & Governor of Alabama George Wallace
3. Written prayer of someone killed in the German death camp at Buchenwald

Our Stories

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Radical forgiveness was central to the message of Jesus. The power of the kingdom was the power to heal and to forgive . . . Jesus' bestowal of forgiveness reaches to us all. Can you hear the sound of Jesus' voice praying for you? It reaches to those places of culpability we acknowledge – and to those places we cannot face in ourselves.

(Stephen Shoemaker, *Finding Jesus in His Prayers*, p.72)

The Cry of Desolation

Matthew 27:45-46

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ""Eloi, Eloi," "lama" "sabachthani?""--which means, "**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**"

Psalm 22

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning? **2** O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent. **3** Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel. **4** In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. **5** They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed. **6** But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people. **7** All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: **8** "He trusts in the Lord; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him." **9** Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you even at my mother's breast. **10** From birth I was cast upon you; from my mother's womb you have been my God. **11** Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. **12** Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. **13** Roaring lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me. **14** I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me. **15** My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. **16** Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. **17** I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. **18** They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing. **19** But you, O Lord, be not far off; O my Strength, come quickly to help me. **20** Deliver my life from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs. **21** Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen. **22** I will declare your name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise you. **23** You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! **24** For he has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help. **25** From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you will I fulfill my vows. **26** The poor will eat and be satisfied; they who seek the LORD will praise him-- may your hearts live forever! **27** All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, **28** for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations. **29** All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him-- those who cannot keep themselves alive. **30** Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. **31** They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn-- for he has done it.

John Koenig – Our Prayers of Desolation

1. Immediate threat to our physical life
2. Long-term illness, pain, or shame
3. Bondage, imprisonment, addiction
4. Profound loss coupled with extended grieving
5. Feeling betrayed by God at a critical point in a mission to which we believe God has called us

The Relinquishment

Luke 23:46

It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "**Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.**" When he had said this, he breathed his last.

Mark 15:37

With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last

Psalms 31:1a, 11, 12

1 In you, O Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;

11 Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbors; I am a dread to my friends-- those who see me on the street flee from me. **12** I am forgotten by them as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery.

Psalms 31:5a

5 Into your hands I commit my spirit;

Luke changes the inarticulate "loud cry" in Mark 15:37 into a prayer of consecration

Mark's narrative renders Jesus' death loud

Luke's narrative renders Jesus' prayer as loud rather than his death

Jesus begins his final prayer with Abba

A nighttime prayer

Here is faith at its most basic: We live and die, wake and sleep, love and work in the Lord, by the hand of the One who is making all things well. These are Jesus' prayers from the cross. These are the best words we can say when life presents its crosses to us.

(Stephen Shoemaker, *Finding Jesus in His Prayers*, p.82)

Finding Jesus in His Prayers
Session 6: More Prayers of Jesus and Personal Prayer Practices
Dr. Greg Smith

Prayer of Thanksgiving Amid Life's Reversals

Matthew 11:25-26

At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.

NRSV adapted by Shoemaker

I thank you, Abba
Lord of heaven and earth,
that you have hidden these things
from the wise and the learned
and revealed them to little ones;
yes, Abba, such was your gracious will [your *eudokia*, your good pleasure]

Context: Matthew 11:25-30

25 At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. **26** Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. **27** "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. **28** "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

See also Luke 10:21-22

At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

Eudokia does not mean that everything that happens is willed and orchestrated by God. It means that God somehow uses everything for God's purposes.

(Stephen Shoemaker, *Finding Jesus in His Prayers*, p.62)

The Gethsemane Prayer

John 12:27 (mentioned in Session 4 – discussed in Session 6: Mark 14:36)

"Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say?

'Father, save me from this hour'?

No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.

Mark 14:36

Abba", Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

NRSV adapted by Shoemaker

Abba, all things are possible to you,

remove this cup from me,

yet not what I want, but what you want.

Note: For once, the Abba is captured in the Biblical text.

Context: Mark 14:32-42

32 They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." **33** He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. **34** "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch." **35** Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. **36** "Abba", Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." **37** Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? **38** Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." **39** Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. **40** When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. **41** Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. **42** Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

Marc Driscoll video clip, *Your Will be Done*

. . . with one breath he begged his God to find another way, and with the next breath he submitted to the train of events whatever they proved to be.

(Stephen Shoemaker, *Finding Jesus in His Prayers*, p.67)

Following Jesus: Personal Prayer Practices

Current Practices Revisited

Growing Edges

The Influence of *Finding Jesus in His Prayers*

Abba-centric

Simplicity

Honesty and Transparency

On Public Prayer Practices

On Private Prayer Practices

Next Steps

Course Evaluation