



CONNECTION

March, 2016

“Praying Like a Child”

¹⁴ Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁵ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it. ¹⁶ And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them. (Mark 10:14–16 ESV)

“I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. (Luke 10:21 ESV)

Last Wednesday, I was in a good discussion of Paul Miller's book, *A Praying Life*. We worked through the first part, which talks about praying like a child. Jesus commends childlike faith. We want to come before the Lord humbly, trustingly, admitting our need and our utter dependence upon Him. How does this kind of faith affect our prayers?

Children are good at sharing what's on their mind. They usually don't hold back, even when we might wish they would! There is an honesty, an unguardedness that many of us need in prayer. We are easily inhibited by our efforts to get our prayer right. We measure our words carefully, trying to say just the right things and in the right way.

I don't want to suggest for a moment that we should encourage selfish or ungodly prayers. We certainly don't want to do that. But in our effort to “get it right,” we are tempted to hide our true thoughts and feelings from God. Of course, that is impossible to pull off. He knows us fully. Our hearts are open to Him. But our pretending creates a barrier to coming to the Lord as a child. Miller writes:

Jesus does not say, “Come to me, all you who have learned how to concentrate in prayer, whose minds no longer wander, and I will give you rest.” No, Jesus opens His arms to His needy children and says, “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28, NASB). The criteria for coming to Jesus is weariness. Come overwhelmed with life. Come with your wandering mind. Come messy...Don't try to get the prayer right; just tell God where you are and what's on your mind. That's what little children do.

It helps me to see that my distractions are worries are not so much obstacles but springboards. They reveal my neediness and show me what I should bring to the Lord in prayer.

What a joyful blessing it is to have a Heavenly Father who loves us and welcomes us to come and cast our burdens upon Him. I pray that He will give us all grace to meet with Him in pray regularly, thankfully, humbly, and as His beloved little children.

Yours, in Him

Dave
Pastor Dave

Men's First Saturday Bible Study

March 5, at 9:00 am, in the Lounge
Colossians 4:2-18

Come join us for Bible study, sharing,
spiritual conversation and prayer!

Upcoming Sermons

March 6

John 7:53-8:11

“Do You Ever Feel Guilty?”

⁷ And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.”⁸ And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground.⁹ But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.¹⁰ Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”¹¹ She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.” (John 8:7–11 ESV)

March 13

John 11:1-53

“Do You Believe There is Life After Death? Why?”

²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.”²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.” (John 11:21–27 ESV)

March 20

John 12:12-26

“Would You Like to Be a Follower of Jesus?”

²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.²⁵ Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.²⁶ If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. (John 12:24–26 ESV)

March 24

Maundy Thursday

7:30 pm

John 13:1-38

“Are We Capable of Betraying Jesus?”

²¹ After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”²² The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke.²³ One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side,²⁴ so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking.²⁵ So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, “Lord, who is it?” (John 13:21–25 ESV)

March 25

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

7:30 pm

March 27

Easter Sunday

Day of Resurrection

John 20:1-18

“I Have Seen the Lord”

¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her. (John 20:17–18 ESV)