



Silent, Personal Prayer

Prayer | 1.7.24

Steve Frissell

(The following text is automatically generated and has not been edited)

Steve Frissell 0:01

Hey friends, this is Steve Rozelle executive pastor here venturi Bible. Thank you so much for joining us on the podcast. Today, this is a little bit different, because we just did something very different in our weekend service. I didn't kick we're kicking off a series on prayer this week, and I taught and the first half of the message was actually done in silence. So silence doesn't really play so well over a podcast. So we're doing something a little different here, I just want to let you know how we kicked off our service and the heart behind it. But here's what I'd love to encourage you to do is if you want to catch the whole sermon, in the show notes, there's a link that you can click, and you can just catch the whole thing there. But you'll need to be at a space where you can visually watch because the sermon was actually done through text on a screen rather than me speaking from the stage. And that's how the first half of the service went. And then the second half, there was a sermon that will be on this podcast. So if you want to catch the whole sermon in its entirety, again, hop on the show notes, and you can click there, and you'll have to be at a space where you can watch, and then the rest of the sermon will play. But if you don't have time to do that, here in a moment, you're gonna get to hear the second half of the sermon. But here's what I just want to do is, if you're going on to just the second half here, I just want to give you a little bit of context for what we did in the very beginning, we took some time in the very beginning of service to sit and silence, and it was awkward, but it was also really sweet and beautiful. Our world is so busy and hectic and stressful and loud, it's full of noise. There's something really great about taking time to stop and to be still not get into silence. And it's not just about getting away from the noise, but it's actually about getting time to be still and hear that gentle whisper of the Lord and our prayer time. This is something that Jesus did often this is what we talked about in the very beginning of the sermon that was in silence is I talked about how Jesus would often go away, get by himself, to be with his Heavenly Father. And so you're about to listen to the second half of the message where it talks about the heart, in which we want to pray a prayer that Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane. But I would love for you to take some time at some point to listen to the sermon in its entirety, or look for space where you can slow down and be still and hear the gentle voice of the Lord speaking to you how loved you are. Here's the second half of the sermon now. This has been a very, very sweet time of worship already. We're gonna worship some more through song and a little bit but first, I want to take some time and talk a little bit about the next 21 days together in something I am praying I hope all of us can be praying together. Over these 21 days as we embark into this as a faith, family, our heart and desire Our hope is that we'll all pray every day and that will be fasting over the next 21 days. We have a prayer guide a devotional for 21 days at our pastor Matt Smith has written that you can get a digital copy for free or you can purchase a paperback copy in our lobby today. If you'd like to go through a journey all together with the rest of us you can get one of those in that guide it has some tips for fasting was a couple of things that I just want to share a little bit as well as you think about and pray about your fast the heart of the hope for fasting is that we're really thinking about what is it that is maybe something that is a distraction in my life or what is something that I need to go I need to fast from so that I'm deeper in dependence on Jesus. So fasting is something that Jesus did followers of Jesus have done a lot it's not something that we do a whole lot though. And so I think this will be a sweet thing for us to consider in process. You can fast food you can fast days of the week you can fast a meal each day you can fast during sunup sundown, there's not really a wrong way to fast unless you make it about yourself. That's like the one thing that Jesus said not to do when you're fasting. So maybe for you there's a food or a type of food or type of drink that you want to fast over the next 21 days. Or maybe for you there's something else that you're going to abstain, like 20 years ago as a youth pastor and I was working with a group of students were fasting for Lent, and there was a young girl in the ministry that recognized that she was very distracted with appearance and approval. So she fasted makeup for 40 days and that drew her into deeper dependence on Jesus. So my

encouragement to you is take some time today and pray and ask the Lord Jesus is there anything that I confess that will bring me into deeper dependence on you or ask Jesus, is there anything in my life that is a distraction to you. process that and think about that and what you might want to fast. Oh, I want to share with you what I hope all of us will be praying over the next 21 days, we've got the prayer guide that Matt wrote, and there's a lot of things that we'll be looking at and processing and praying. But there's one thing that I'm going to pray every day and I'm inviting you today to pray it. It's a prayer that Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane, take your Bibles, you can sort of Mark chapter 14 will also have the verses on the screen if you don't have a Bible with you today. This there's a couple of accounts of this moment where Jesus is praying in this garden. This is a moment where it's right after the last supper. It's just before Jesus is betrayed and arrested, the very next day is when he finds himself being crucified on a cross. So he had finished this meal with His disciples. And then Mark captures this here and Mark 14, verse 32, they went to a place called Gethsemane. And Jesus said to His disciples sit here, while I pray. He took Peter, James and John along with him. And he began to be deeply distressed,

Unknown Speaker 6:10
and troubled.

Steve Frissell 6:13

fascinating to me that Jesus, I mean, he often got alone to be with a father. I mean, we see this over and over. But it's fascinating to me that Jesus chose at this moment to go to this garden Garden of Gethsemane. We believe that this is the place that Jesus would pray often, but it's significant that he prayed here in this moment. Gethsemane is translated to olive press. You know how sometimes places are named because of like, what's at the location, that's what this is, this is actually just the translation of it's the garden with the olive presses. That's what this place is. And Jesus likely walked by one or maybe multiple olive presses as he was going to this garden that is near the Mount of Olives, because they would take the olives from there, and they would go to this garden where there were olive presses like this one, where they would take the olives and put them in the large stone basin. And then they would use animals or a person would push the other stone around in this circle, and it would crush the olives, they had a series of crushing that they would do with different presses where they would ultimately crushed these olives to get olive oil. So here Jesus is in this place of crushing,

Unknown Speaker 7:29
where he goes to pray.

Steve Frissell 7:32

Like what Mark records Jesus says this to his disciples, My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch. Now, some English translations of the Bible, take the word that's here that we have as overwhelmed and sometimes it is actually translated as crushed. My soul is crushed to the point of death. Jesus here we get to see the fullness of his humanity. He is fully human with a full range of emotions. And in this moment, in this time of great sorrow, Jesus is so overwhelmed that he says to His disciples, the weight is so heavy, the sorrow is so much that I feel like I'm being crushed.

Steve Frissell 8:24

This is going a little further,

Unknown Speaker 8:26

he fell to the ground. And pray that if it was possible that the hour might pass from him.

Steve Frissell 8:38

Don't know if you've ever prayed outdoors when I've prayed outdoors, I look for like a curt, nice cushy spot to sit. Jesus didn't go through this garden looking for a good place to sit. He was walking and he was so overwhelmed that he just fell down.

Speaker 1 8:52

He couldn't go any further because he was so overwhelmed.

Speaker 2 8:56

He was feeling the crushing that he physically false. And he begins to plead and pray. And this prayer is so significant. It says

this arbor, Father, everything is possible for you take this cup from me.

Steve Frissell 9:22

This is so significant what Jesus is doing here. Put he's praying a honest human prayer. Anything's possible for you can you take this cup? Can you do something different? So we see his humanity. Another thing that we see here is Jesus is praying what He taught his disciples to pray.

Unknown Speaker 9:43

Jesus prayed so uniquely

Steve Frissell 9:45

different that a long time before this moment, the disciples went to Jesus and said, Hey, would you teach us how to pray? And he taught them a prayer to prayer that maybe you've memorized? Maybe you've heard of it before? It's called the Lord's the Lord's prayer. Jesus said In so much give us a formula to pray, but he gave us an understanding of the heart in which we can pray. And what He taught his disciples then, is what he's doing. Now he said, When you pray, you can pray and say, Abba, Father, our Father in heaven. And this is so significant first to recognize what Jesus is saying about the way we pray, and who we're praying to. He invites us to recognize that God is loving enough near enough, dear enough that he lets us call him dad. Think about how significant that is. That God is so loving, so compassionate, so empathetic, so understanding and so deeply for you that He wants you to be able to call him dad. And this dad is so great, so powerful that he is in heaven, he rains for me from heaven, because He is eternal. So to God we pray to is loving and kind enough to be called dad, and powerful enough to rain from heaven. And look at what Jesus prayed. Abba, Father, everything is possible for you, the Father, who is dear and near and loves me, you will rain from heaven, and all things are possible you can do

Unknown Speaker 11:26

anything.

Speaker 2 11:29

And then Jesus says, Would you take this cup for me? Now, in a way,

Steve Frissell 11:36

the father didn't really answer his prayer here. I mean, I know like, God always answers our prayers. Sometimes it's a yes, sometimes it Niseko and sometimes it's a maybe. And here, what Jesus got from the father was, No, I'm not going to remove the cup. I mean, think about that. Jesus prayed to the Father, can you remove the cup? And the father was not going to remove the cup. But then the next prayer that Jesus prayed is a prayer that the father does answer. And there's a prayer that the Father will always answer with us. Look at the next thing that Jesus prays, he says, yet not what I will, but what you will. The he knows that the Father is always about his will. And so Jesus here in this moment says, God, I want what your will is, may Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is, and Heaven. He's praying what He taught his disciples to pray, God, you are so great, we can call you dad, you rain from heaven, anything is possible, and I desire your will to be done.

Speaker 2 12:55

This is a prayer that is full of trust.

Steve Frissell 13:00

It's a completely trusting prayer, to say to the Father, whatever your will, is, I want your will may Your will be done. It's a fully trusting, fully surrendered open handed prayer

Unknown Speaker 13:15

of trust to a father.

Steve Frissell 13:19

And Jesus praises prayer because he knows that the Father is loving and near enough to be a call dad, and he's great enough to rain from heaven. This is why this God is worthy of trust. And what Jesus is doing here is so significant, because it's a

dramatic picture in this moment of the bigger picture of what he's doing with his life. He is ultimately obedient, Adam was disobedient and a garden that is a paradise. Jesus in this moment is obedient and the garden of agony. And so we're Adam was disobedient Jesus's OBEEDIA and he praised a prayer, whatever you have may Your will be done. And this is the prayer that I hope we can pray over in the next 21 days. Jesus, whatever is your will I trust you, your will be done. I want your will. You've probably said this before, you've at least heard someone say before I've said it before, that whole thing of hey, don't pray and ask God for patience, because you don't know what he'll do to you. You know this saying? Like, oh, if you pray for patience, God's going to really send you some things I'll make you patient. Here's, here's the problem with that the underlying belief behind that is God's not trustworthy. Like I can't trust him, enough to pray for patience, because he's gonna make me go to Africa or something, right, like, We fear what the outcomes would be. But what Jesus prayed in the garden is your father I can trust you because you are near and Have to be called dad and you're great enough to rain from heaven. He is worthy of our trust. And Jesus prayed this prayer and he was ultimately obedient in that garden. And he was arrested, he was betrayed. They're arrested in that garden. And the next day, he finds himself crucified on a cross, and he dies. And then he is resurrected again. And in his resurrection, he defeats sin and death. And this is what's so wild. And let's just, let's just see here just for a moment, really, ultimately, the thing that we fear, the only thing we really should fear is death and sin. And then Jesus resurrection, he defeated both death and sin. So we actually have nothing to be afraid of, and God is fully worthy of our trust. So we can say, whatever your will is, would it be done in my life, you are worthy of my trust, I trust you with whatever it is because I know not only is your will, what's best for the world, but Your will is what's best for me.

Steve Frissell 16:07

So for the next 21 days, let's pray and ask his will to be done. And here's just this last thing I just got to share that just is so great, and so profound. And so kind of the Lord. When you put your faith in Jesus, you became a new creation. Scripture talks about that, over and over, Paul has a ton to say about a Jesus talked a lot about the new life that we would have and what it mean that we'd have the Holy Spirit in us. When you trust in Jesus, you are a brand new creation with a new identity. And along with that, it says that you have a new heart, like part of you being a new creation is that your heart has changed. And what actually is natural to you. Now, what's true of you now is you actually desire the will of God for your life. See, what you actually want is God's will, because you are a new creation, He has brought you in that place. Often we feel this thing where it's like, oh, God, I want your will. But I actually want these things. And we really live in this place where we're ultimately confused, maybe even deceived, believing in our flesh, that we're still an old creation with our old nature with our old desires, but you are a new creation, with a new nature. And what you actually desire is God's will. In fact, if you're wanting to understand this more, here's what you could pray for the next 21 days. Because this is what's true of you. Psalm 40, verse five, if you are new, and Jesus, what you actually can pray with confidence is I delight to fulfill your will, my God, your living words are written upon the pages of my hearts.

Speaker 2 17:56

You actually desire His will for your life.

Steve Frissell 18:01

And I just want I just want you to think about this for a moment. What would happen, what could happen it for the next 21 days, we as a faith community of faith, family, fast, seek the Lord, slow down, spend time with Jesus soaking in his presence, and really pray, Lord, may Your will be done. Think about what he can do in each of us individually, and what will happen to us corporately and these days in the days to come.

Steve Frissell 18:39

All right now, we're going to take some time, and we're going to worship through song. We've sat in some silence. We've meditated on His Word. We've thought about who we are in Jesus, we've reflected on the new life that we have in Christ. If you're here today, and you don't know Jesus, you don't have a personal relationship with Jesus, but you're trying to figure this Jesus out. You're wondering what this faith is about. We would love to connect with you after the service and seeing and in questions that you have. You can connect with us on person, you can email us pastors@venturi.org We'd love to talk.

Unknown Speaker 19:14

We'd love to answer your questions.

Steve Frissell 19:17

Maybe for you right now, just as we sing these songs, maybe you can just say God, as these songs are being sung and maybe if you sing them or not, you could just say God, would you would you speak to me right now though? Let me see who you are. So let's stand. And over these next two songs, because we've had some time a silence, we've had some beautiful reflection on who God is. Let's sing with a different amp today. Let's sit in the intensity of what we're singing. Like let the power of the words really hit you. And when And we get loud. Let's get loud. Let's take all of that appreciation, all that adoration that we have for who God is and what he's done for us. And let's pour it out today in the intensity of our thought and our focus. And in the moments where it's volume may the volume reflects the deep appreciation that we have for Jesus. Let's worship