

Sunday, Aug. 12:

Message Title: "I Need You"

Memory Verse & Text: "Cast your anxiety on Him every day, because you know how much He cares for you." -1 Peter 5:7

Scripture: John 2:1-10

Blurb: One of the main reasons we talk to God is to ask for help. This may seem selfish to some degree, but we do it anyway because of a bedrock truth: God wants to help us! Actually, we need to ask for it more, because one of our crippling problems is that we have a tendency to insulate our lives too much from God! This Sunday we will learn to be more bold in asking for God's help, but asking in a way that keeps God in charge. Come ready to pray!

Opening Song: *Glory to Glory* -Sanctify

Welcome: -Pastor David

Memory Verse: "Cast your anxiety on Him every day, because you know how much He cares for you." -1 Peter 5:7

Greeting Time: Turn to your neighbors and tell them that God is good!

Worship Music Set: - Sanctify

Everlasting God

I Need Thee Every Hour

Video presentation

Restoration

Worship Prayer - Andrew

Prayers: -Andrew

Message: Transformed: Praying in a way that changes your life. Father, You are Good. I Need You.

Message Bumper

PP#1: Transformed: Praying in a way that changes your life.

"I Need Your Help. Heal Me. Forgive Me."

"Cast your anxiety on Him every day, because you know how much He cares for you." -1 Peter 5:7

Transformed: Praying in a way that changes your life. "I Need Your Help. Heal Me. Forgive Me." 1 Peter 5:7 "Cast your anxiety on Him every day, because you know how much He cares for you."

PP#2: *Pix of the temporary tattoos on vacation*

Tattoos are very popular these days. I'm blown away by some of the artwork, the color, and the creativity. And although I do not have a tattoo personally, I'm one of those that thinks that the Bible allows tattoos. My problem is finding something that I want permanently on my person for the rest of my life! Life changes. Circumstances change. My priorities change. Tattoos are just, so, permanent!

I know you can attempt to remove tattoos, but it is very expensive, painful, and not guaranteed to end up well. Here are some tattoos gone wrong!

PP#3-7: *Scroll through some tattoos that went wrong, or were dumb, ending with something God.*

"Plan ahead"

"'Regret' (in Chinese)"

Names crossed off.

"No regrets"

"Only Christ can save me."

"Think before you ink." Tattoos are nearly permanent. They are so hard to remove.

PP#8: *Image of Jesus at the wedding at Cana*

Different topic. Jesus. Jesus was 30 years old when He felt God's calling to begin His public ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing. Down by Jerusalem, Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, and then Jesus calls His first disciples to follow Him. He then goes back up to His home town of Nazareth. He arrives in time to hear the invitation to a wedding, probably a family friend, or a person from their village. The wedding was in the neighboring village of Cana, about four miles to the north. Now, remember, Jesus was just getting started, and He has not performed any miracles yet. And it was at Cana that Jesus performs His first one. He turns water into wine!

Well, this may suggest something as to Jesus' attitude toward alcohol! Did you know that the United Methodist Church prohibits alcohol on all church property? Alcohol is forbidden in any United Methodist church, camp, or church-owned property. Side note, that would include United Methodist parsonages, too! But the reason is not because alcohol is a sin, or that Jesus forbids alcohol. The reason is that we want churches to be safe places for everyone. And if you are struggling with alcoholism, you can safely go to any United Methodist church. You will not encounter it there. It's to help those who struggle with it. And, this is what makes United Methodist churches the preferred places for AA groups to meet. More AA groups meet in United Methodist churches than anywhere else. So, it's about keeping a welcoming space for everyone.

Anyway, as you hear the story, pay particular attention to Mary, Jesus' mother.

PP#9: John 2 (CEB)

1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and 2 Jesus and His disciples were also invited to the celebration. 3 When the wine ran out, Jesus' mother said to Him, "They don't have any wine."

4 Jesus replied, "Woman, what does that have to do with me? My time hasn't come yet."

5 His mother told the servants, "Do whatever He tells you."

Reader: John, chapter 2. “On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, and Jesus and His disciples were also invited to the celebration. When the wine ran out, Jesus’ mother said to Him, ‘They don’t have any wine.’

“Jesus replied, ‘Woman, what does that have to do with me? My time hasn’t come yet.’

“His mother told the servants, ‘Do whatever He tells you.’”

So, the wine has run out. Embarrassing. Mary is somehow in the conversation, either the wedding host has told her about it, or it’s the gossip in the crowd. Then, for some strange reason, Mary goes to Jesus and tells Him the problem.

Stop for a minute. Why would Mary do this? She knew He was poor and could not afford to buy that much wine. And she’s not just being chatty, because Jesus hears it as her asking Him to fix the problem. Why would Mary go to Jesus with this kind of problem?

It’s kind of baffling, really. But I can guess that she has some inkling that her son can do some pretty amazing things. He’s never done a miracle before, at least publically. But Mary—the one human who knows Jesus best—thinks just perhaps that He can do something about it. She knows that her son is the Messiah. She’s been with Him all growing up. She senses God Almighty’s presence in Him. She knows He can do things. And then, she also still feels like she can meddle in His life.

I love this. Jesus complains that she’s meddling, getting too involved:

Mary: “Problem, Jesus, the wine’s run out.”

Jesus: “Leave me out of it! It’s not time yet for me to show my power publically.”

But then, notice, Mary doesn’t listen to Him! This is great! Mary is the one person who knows that Jesus is God, but as His mother, she still pushes Him around! And He let’s her!

You see, when He tells her to leave Him out of it, she then turns to the servants and tells them to go to Jesus and do what He tells them.

Now, I don’t know if Jesus ever glared. But I so picture Him, right here, glaring at His mother and clenching His teeth.

I imagine God, when He first came up with the idea of families, and motherhood, and gave this amazing power of mothers over their children, I imagine Him pausing for a brief moment when He was making Eve, and thinking about this day when the women He was creating, would one day boss Him around, in Jesus! I see Him shaking His head.

And then Jesus, too! Frustrated, He grunts under His breath, “Fine!,” and obeys.

PP#10: John 2 (CEB)

6 Nearby were six stone water jars used for the Jewish cleansing ritual, each able to hold about twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water,” and they filled them to the brim. 8 Then He told them, “Now draw some from them and take it to the headwaiter,” and they did.

[Include image of the stone jars like we saw when at Cana]

Reader: Verse 6, “Nearby were six stone water jars used for the Jewish cleansing ritual, each able to hold about twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, ‘Fill the jars with water,’ and they filled them to the brim. Then He told them, ‘Now draw some from them and take it to the headwaiter,’ and they did.”

The jars may not be what you might expect. Here's one they found in Cana, dating from Jesus' time. It's a large, stone container. Six of them. A total of 150 gallons! That's a lot of wine! And not just your average wine. It was the good stuff!

PP#11: John 2 (CEB)

9 The headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine. He didn't know where it came from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. The headwaiter called the groom 10 and said, "Everyone serves the good wine first. They bring out the second-rate wine only when the guests are drinking freely. You kept the good wine until now."

11 This was the first miraculous sign that Jesus did in Cana of Galilee. He revealed His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

Reader: Verse 9, "The headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine. He didn't know where it came from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. The headwaiter called the groom and said, 'Everyone serves the good wine first. They bring out the second-rate wine only when the guests are drinking freely. You kept the good wine until now.'

"This was the first miraculous sign that Jesus did in Cana of Galilee. He revealed His glory, and His disciples believed in Him."

Jesus' first miracle. Pretty good story. But today I want you to see how Mary spoke to Jesus. We are dreaming a new dream this summer. And that means we're praying, asking for God's leading. So, as we dream, we're learning to pray in a way that transforms our daily lives. Prayer is the most powerful thing we can do. And we all can do it!

PP#12: Biblical "Pocket Prayer" Outline:

Father, You are good.
I need your help.
So do they.
Thank you. Amen.

We're using Max Lucado's Pocket Prayer, an outline he noticed when he studied the prayers throughout the Bible. It's a very simple outline for prayer, but we're finding it can totally change our prayer life, and change the rest of us, too!

Let's try it together: **Father, You are good. I need your help. So do they. Thank you. Amen.**

We're taking a look at each line of the prayer each week, and we're learning how we can add and build to this outline in our own personal prayer lives. When you pray "Father," stop and purposefully turn to Him as your Heavenly Father. When you pray, "You are good," then insert ways that you name Him good...praise Him, lift up His amazing character, name His incredible identity. When we do, our identities are transformed.

PP#13: "I need your help."

Today, we come to perhaps the most familiar part of praying. If there is anything we know about praying, it's that we want to ask God for help.

Now, before we go any further, I want you to know that it is always okay to ask God for help. Remember, He's your Heavenly Father. And good earthly fathers want to give good things to their children. In fact, one of the most defining characteristics of good fatherhood, is for fathers to sacrifice themselves in some way so that they can give good things to their children.

I want your prayer opener, "Father," "Heavenly Father," to help you picture God as good, and loving, who loves you, who likes you, who accepts you, who enjoys your voice, who loves to hear you babble and rant and go on and on. And I want you to picture God as never growing weary of our talking, and asking.

Now, we also need to remember, that like a good father, our Heavenly Father will not give us everything we ask for. But it's always okay to ask. He loves it when we talk to Him.

Here's the key: we need to ask God for help. This may be the most common form of prayer we pray, but this is also something that can be hard for us. We're independent, self-sufficient, and okay on our own. It can be a hard thing to admit that you need help. It is a step of faith to stop, turn to God, and ask for help.

That's why it's good start our prayers by remembering how good God is. It is when we remember God's character and nature, that our trust in Him grows. Our faith is strengthened. And we can more easily and more quickly turn to Him.

PP#14: "I need your help."

Take your problems to Jesus!

Mary here is an example for us. She knew Jesus well, and she had come to know God well in Him. So she had no hesitation to take whatever problem she encountered to Him. It's almost automatic: "What do you say? The wine's gone? Hey, Jesus, the wine's out." That's a faith move. That's a trigger response that comes from years of living your life and taking all your needs to your Heavenly Father.

A while back we had friends come visit from England. They were not used to our winters! And one time, the husband slipped on the ice as he was trying to get into the back seat of our car. He wacked his head pretty good. And when I turned around to check on him, I saw his wife put a hand on his shoulder, and pray for him.

I remember thinking how strange that was. I mean, he just bumped his head. Does she pray about every little thing? Then it dawned on me. I hope so! And, as I've grown in my faith, and my prayer life, I want to be more and more like my friend Pauline, and Mary. I want it to be my automatic response.

It's an act of faith to develop that response to take whatever we encounter, to prayer. And if we learn to pray more like that, our lives will be transformed!

PP#15: "I need your help."

Heal me.

We need to ask God for healing. God did not set us off into this life to do it on our own. And He also promises in His Word, to go with us, help us, and heal us. Our fundamental human condition is that we need healing: in mind, body, and soul. Over and over again, in the Bible, people come to Jesus for healing. And when He comes to them, He asks them, "What do you want from me?" I've always thought that strange. If a lame or blind person is brought to Jesus, why would He ask him what he wanted? It's because He was helping train his prayer life...and ours! "Ask me." "Tell me what you want." "Come to me." "Ask me for healing."

Now, we are to come and ask Jesus for help and healing. But Jesus is also our Lord. That means we believe He knows best. That means we trust Him to do things His way. We ask for healing, but then we leave the outcome to Him.

You see, we're trying to grow in our prays, and wanting to learn how to pray in a way that changes us, and our daily lives. And that means that when we let go of our trusting in ourselves, we also let go of being able to decide the outcome of what we ask for. Praying for help and healing also means not controlling the outcome.

It's just taking it to Jesus. Like Mary. She didn't tell Jesus what to do. She simply brought to Him the problem. And I love her faith-filled response. "Do whatever He tells you."

It's up to Him. However He handles it, that's fine. We take our problems to Jesus, and let Him take care of them His way.

The Bible promises that God will always hear our prayers. The Bible also promises that God will always come to our help. But the Bible never promises that God will give us what we ask for.

Now, that's not a cop out, mind you, or an excuse for why God doesn't heal the way we want. It's a matter of a change in us, so we can become okay with whatever God chooses to do. It's putting God as Lord, and taking ourselves out of that role.

But we can have trust. The Bible does say that God will always heal us when we ask for healing. The reality is that sometimes God heals instantly, and sometimes God heals gradually, and sometimes, God chooses to heal us ultimately.

Our memory verse says, "Cast your anxiety on Him every day, [not because He'll do whatever you want, but] because you know how much He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7) Take it to your Heavenly Father, and then leave it there with Him!

PP#16: "I need your help."

Heal me.

Forgive me.

Healing also means the wounds on the inside. When we sin, and live in a way that is selfish and ungodly, we create wounds deep inside of us. We feel this in guilt and in regret. Max Lucado described guilt as people who feel defensive. They hid the past, or try to. Then there is regret, people who feel defeated. They are people who wear the past, it affects them and shapes their every day. Do you share in these?

Guilt and regrets are like tattoos on the heart, written with the ink of our own wrong decisions. To us, they are permanent. We cannot get them out, or remove them. By ourselves, we are trapped, stuck by those scars of the soul that remind us of our failures and sins.

But the prayer teaches us to say, "Father, you are good. I need your help. Heal me. Forgive me!"

God specializes in guilt removal! He does what we cannot! We must ask Him to do it.

But when we do, when you ask God for forgiveness, you must then trust in Him to do it! You cannot hang on to it, or let it beat you up, or ruin your now. Too often we don't take it to God, or if we do, we won't let go of it, or if we do, we take it back!

Use this prayer: stop at this line, and confess your sin. Then, relinquish your guilt and your regret. Don't hold back. Don't cling to it. Max says when we pray, we should be abundant in our profession, and concrete in our confession. Healing happens when the wound is exposed in the atmosphere of grace.

But this is not easy! For Satan traffics in guilt. He will continue to bring it to mind, to derail you, to frustrate you, to keep it going in you.

PP#17: *A tattoo of a heart, with the word "forgiven."*

You must pray this prayer, and in faith, let it go. Stop tormenting yourself. If you find you cannot let it go, then go back to the first line of the prayer. Proclaim how God is a forgiving God, one who remembers our sin and our guilt no more, how He removes it as far as the East is from the West. Recite how our good Heavenly Father willingly sacrificed Himself, in Jesus, to take your sins away. Say those prayers, as that will drown out Satan's voice in your head.

The botched tattoos of our hearts are cleanly and perfectly removed. They no longer mark us, identify us, define us. And this healing of forgiveness, God always promises to do immediately, and fully, right when we ask.

PP#18: Biblical "Pocket Prayer" Outline:

Father, You are good.

I need your help.

Heal me.

Forgive me.

[*Pause for personal prayers.*]

So do they.

Thank you. Amen.

Let's close with this Pocket Prayer again. And as we do, let's pause for a moment, and pray requests for help, for healing, for forgiveness. Let's pray.

Offering: *Devote Yourselves* -Sanctify

Closing Song: *Your Love Defends Me* - Sanctify

Memory Verse: -Pastor David

"Cast your anxiety on Him every day, because you know how much He cares for you." -1 Peter 5:7

Announcements:

Benediction: -Pastor David