

## 3-20-22 Sermon #10

### He Brews

Early one morning the husband and wife were arguing over who should get out of the warm bed to make the coffee. Finally, the wife folded her arms and said decidedly, “You have to make the coffee. It’s in the Bible!” The husband was shocked. “Is not! Show me!” Pulling out her Bible, the wife opened it to one of the New Testament books and declared, “It says right here — HEBREWS!”

### PRAYER

How many of you remember the phrase I dare you? Or even better, What about double dog dare you? During some of my earlier messages I used some illustrations about children and how being childlike is such a great value for our relationship with Jesus. During today’s message, I’m going to try and bring a Challenge to us. Kind of like a dare. My hope is that all of you will take it.

Over the last 11 years, I’ve really been asking God to help me with understanding how to make a good relationship with Him a better one. The very first area that God revealed for me was to better understand prayer and to be able to live out how to become prayerful in all things. By FAITH, I said ok and in my pursuit for how to pray, I needed to know why it’s so valuable to pray. This really helped me with learning how to recognize God’s voice. Prayer has always been a huge part of my walk with Christ and by having others in my life who seem to pray a lot, made me want to be more like that. I think it’s safe to say that we’ve all been able to have Christ/God answer prayers and the more we get to experience His answers, the more it helps with increasing our prayer lives. Through my near death experience, God revealed to me that there is very little if anything that I can control. In the blink of an eye our lives can be changed. Last week I brought up posture. When it comes to prayer, I think it’s very important for us to bow our heads and to close our eyes when we pray. This posture shows reverence for

God. We can also be disciplined with saying prayers. Like when we go to bed or in the morning when we wake. In my pursuit to learn more about prayer, not only did I seek the word but, I also did my own survey. I asked others for their thoughts about prayer. I asked them on a scale of 1-10 how would they score their prayer life. Most people said between 5-8. I also asked if they knew how Jesus prayed. This really made them sit back and think. It made me ask, Is prayer only for us? This question caused me to want to know more about how Jesus prayed. I've read about this many times in the word but, I don't know that I've ever really connected with it.

Last Wednesday, in Jim's class we talked about HOW JESUS prayed while on the cross, during His crucifixion. It was a great class. During Jesus' crucifixion, He prayed hard that God would forgive them because they knew not what they were doing. He prayed this the entire time that he endured the cross. I felt Jesus' passion and got to see how much God's character of love is in Him.

Starting last Monday and over the next few Monday's, we're exploring church growth and everyone is welcome to attend. It starts here at the church at 6:30 and my prayer is that we can all work together on this.

As we get closer to Easter we're going to talk more about what Christ's resurrection did for us and we'll be exploring more about Heaven. Listening to others share their visions of heaven always brings such a calming effect and it gives us a peaceful heart. The topic of prayer does this too. It always makes us feel so secure in Christ. I'd like to ask another question. From a practical sense, when someone does us a favor, why do we want to find a way to do something for them? Is it because these acts of kindness, make us have a desire for wanting to make friends with them? When we accepted Christ, the SPIRIT gave us compassion towards each other and when someone is hurt or homebound we think about sending cards, bringing meals, buying gifts or just visiting them out of friendship. Most

important, we immediately pray for them and ask God to heal them. When we see an elderly person or somebody carry things we offer help or open the door for them. Our instincts kick in and we want to reach out to them. There's hundreds of examples for how we start doing things for others without needing anything in return.

When God answers our prayers, we don't think that God is expecting anything in return. He's God and we're depending on Him for all things. Let's look at how Jesus prayed and see how God answers Jesus' prayers. Please turn to John 17. The entire chapter is dedicated to Jesus praying. 17 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: **Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. <sup>2</sup> For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. <sup>3</sup> Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.** (Jesus is praying about Himself and He's talking about us. **Then Jesus Prays for His Disciples**) **<sup>6</sup> I have revealed you<sup>[a]</sup> to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. <sup>11</sup> 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<sup>[b]</sup> your**

name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.<sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by<sup>[c]</sup> that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.<sup>13</sup> 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.<sup>14</sup> 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.<sup>15</sup> My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.<sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.<sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by<sup>[d]</sup> the truth; your word is truth.<sup>18</sup> As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.<sup>19</sup> For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. **(Jesus Prays for All Believers)**<sup>20</sup> My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,<sup>21</sup> 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.<sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—<sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.<sup>24</sup> 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.<sup>25</sup> “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.<sup>26</sup> I have made you<sup>[e]</sup> 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.”

Reading this prayer from Jesus makes me see that Jesus needs us to be His answer to prayer. By using our gifts in front of others is a huge step but, being brave enough to talk about what Jesus does for all of us is tough. If we're who Jesus is describing in His prayer, then Jesus is asking God to help us with being His answer to prayer. We're the only ones who can reach the lost. God desires that all should be saved and unless we take His prayer personal, Jesus's prayer goes unanswered. My challenge for you is to talk to somebody about heaven or ask someone how you can pray for them. Be the light that Jesus asks us to be and do it in your own kind of way. I dare you. I double dog dare you. I triple dog dare you.

**WHAT'S GOING ON?** I've got great news. Yesterday, 4 of us met with friends of Jim. Mattie and Jacob agreed to help us with our media needs. We need all of you Facebook people to start putting posts on the churches page. You need to press the "like" button and to show some pictures. The website is also being updated and new things will be added to that. You're all needed to be a part of this.

Jim & Avis have jumped all in and Avis has asked the ladies to join her in starting a ladies bible class. She is willing to host it but she needs others to become co-leaders. Please don't let her do this alone. So far 3 ladies have said yes but she needs more of you to help. If we want to see the church grow, all that matters is that we plant the seed and let God water it. Re-read verse 15 **15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.** God's the creator of all of us and Jesus prays for us. Verse 12, **12 While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by [c] that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.**

All we need to do is ask someone to be our friend. Look around, do someone a favor. Take the time to reach out with one of your gifts and touch somebody with your heart. Start asking someone

to come visit and let them know that 1<sup>st</sup> church is becoming on fire for Christ and it's a church that they can come as they are. Let them know that because 1<sup>st</sup> church is in a new beginning state, we need help with a lot of things. It's a chance for others to come and make a difference. Look at Paul, Jesus didn't call the qualified, He qualified the called. Look at me, God's using me even though I'm "unqualified". I'm just trying to put my trust in Christ. The reality is that none of us are really qualified. We have the best help because Jesus is praying for every one of us. If we believe God hears our prayers then let's try to be answers to Jesus' prayer. All Jesus is asking is that we give the "HOPE" of heaven to others.

Let's pray,