

March 30, 2020 – Daily Devotion “Answered Prayer”

Grace and peace to you, brothers and sisters in Christ!

Today, I will not be able to do a “live” devotion as it seems my recent amount of talking has caused my voice to be quiet. Perhaps I need to do some “self-care” today! I am fine, just a voice that comes and goes. I am drinking water and warm tea!

We are continuing our “Aging Faithfully” Lenten devotions today with the title “Answered Prayer”. No matter what age we are, when we pray, we want answers ... ASAP usually. We want something visual or a voice from a burning bush, not something like in the joke about the man stuck on his rooftop after a flood and praying for God to save him. A rowboat comes by, then a motorboat, and finally a helicopter arrives to save him. He, however, turns them all down because he has prayed to God and he knows that God will save him. The man drowns and when he sees God, he mentions that his prayer was not answered. God replies, “I sent a rowboat, a motorboat and a helicopter, what more did you want!” HaHa. Yes, we expect our prayers to be answered the way WE want them to be answered.

Our scripture for today:

Psalm 5:1-3 New International Version (NIV)

For the director of music. For pipes. A psalm of David.

¹ Listen to my words, LORD,
consider my lament.

² Hear my cry for help,
my King and my God,
for to You I pray.

³ In the morning, LORD, You hear my voice;
in the morning I lay my requests before You
and wait expectantly.

In verses 1 and 2, David uses a Hebrew method of repeating the same idea three times: “Listen to my words”, “consider my lament”, and “hear my cry”, directing the prayer to God. In verse 3 David prays in the morning to honor God at the start of the day and then says “I lay my requests before you” as the priest lays out the morning sacrifice.

How do we pray? Do we do something like David, or do we jump in with “Hey God, I need this or that?” Do we expect an answer from God as the man on the roof during the flood? Or, do we wait expectantly for how God will answer our prayer and know that what we want may not be what God has planned for us. Are we ready to accept the answer we get? Are we really ready to accept God’s will?

Our prayer times during this world-wide health concern are most likely filled with prayers for healing and safe keeping. How do we respond when the answer we want isn't given? How does it impact our faith?

Young and old alike, we want our requests to be answered our way. We might remember that in the Lord's Prayer we say, "Thy kingdom come, **Thy** will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." I know someone who refused to pray this part of the prayer, he just couldn't let go of his own will and accept God's will.

I challenge you today to think of times when your prayer was answered, but it wasn't the answer you wanted. Or it wasn't answered in **your** time but **God's** time. How did you feel, did it challenge your faith? Then think about the times your prayers were answered as you wanted, in a timely manner. What was the difference between the two? Finally, how does this Psalm help you to pray?

God bless each of you as we walk this last week before Holy Week. May your prayer life be encouraged by the words in these verses of Psalm 5:1-3.

Let us pray:

Holy God, we ask You to hear our prayers and consider our requests this day. We have so many things happening in our lives and we sometimes just don't know what to do, or even how to pray. You know our needs better than we do, so we lay them out before You, that Your will be done, and You will guide us and comfort us as we move through this day and all days. Amen

Blessings,

Pastor Linda