

Mar 11, 2018



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Following Jesus demands our all

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Lord, I want to be sold out for You. I want to love You with my whole heart, soul, mind, and strength. Give me the power to be who You want me to be, and to walk in Your ways.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

(Luke 9:62 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Apr 27, 2012)

Series: Acknowledging God

UNIT: Follow in My Ways

NEXT WEEK

**Worshipping in
God's Temple
(2 Chron 7:1-9)**

A Prayer of Dedication 2 Chronicles 6:12-21

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson examines the setting, substance, and the application in Solomon's **Prayer of Dedication**. The study's aim is to recognize that prayer is a unique activity in which we can engage. The study's application is to make our daily lives practically one continuous prayer.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

It is often said that public prayers should not be used as a vehicle for preaching to others. This is true if the preaching consists of voicing pet peeves or riding personal hobbyhorses. But the Bible is filled with public prayers that proclaim truth. Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the temple is no exception. The prayer, which runs from 2 Chronicles 6:14 to the end of the chapter (vs. 42), is largely a plea for forgiveness for anticipated future sins on the part of God's people and for deliverance from the variety of afflictions those sins would bring (vss. 21-42), Solomon knew his people's propensity for falling away from devotion to the God who loved and provided for them. Ironically, he would be one of the first to do so later in life. But at this moment, the words he spoke were altogether true and unblemished. Although all the pleas that Solomon voiced point indispensably to God's holiness, grace, and mercy, they are founded upon basic truths uttered at the beginning of the prayer, The text contains the groundwork that Solomon laid in proclaiming the kind of God that Israel had come together at the temple to worship. The first thing to be emphasized about God was His utter incomparability.

"There is no God like thee." The Old Testament makes this point over and over (Exod. 15:11; Deut. 4:35; 2 Sam. 7:22; Ps. 86:8; Isa. 40:25; 46:9, to cite just a few). It was one of the basic truths Israel needed to learn and be reminded of repeatedly. The Lord's incomparability has no bounds. There is none like Him "in the heaven, nor in the earth." Even the most hard-bitten pagan would not have made such a claim for any of the gods he bowed down to. It is human nature to try to make God something less than He is and more like familiar things, but this tendency must be resisted at all costs. God is not just another part of creation; He is totally above it and unique. But this incomparable God also relates to people personally. He keeps His "covenants"; that is, He is faithful to keep His promises. He is not like the pagan gods, who say one thing and do another. He does not keep His word only at convenience, as so many people do. God's character is also marked by mercy. Pagan gods could be capricious and cruel, but God shows mercy and kindness in His dealings with His people, "thy servants, that walk before thee with all their hearts." We might at first think that such people do not need mercy, but no one who walks closely with God would ever be so proud as to think God's mercy and grace were not needed every moment. And it is only by God's mercy that we are enabled to walk before Him in the first place. Unlike Solomon and the Israelites, we do not have a temple to dedicate to the Lord. If we are Christ's and have the Holy Spirit, we are God's temple, and we can dedicate our lives to Him every day. We can do this fully confident that He is a faithful God who will keep every promise He has made to us.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Dedicated Preparation (2 Chron 6:12-13)

Prepare by going to God's alter (12)

An alter to learn (Deut 4:9-11)

An alter to hear God's word (Deut 31:10-12)

An alter to agree with God's word (Neh 8:2-6)

An alter to bind together in agreement and oath

(Neh 10:28-29)

An alter for consecration (Joel 2:15-16)

Prepare by humbling oneself (13)

Humble because of having name written in heaven
(Luke 10:20)

Humble because of being clothed with humility
(Col 3:12)

Humble to be rich in faith (James 2:5)

Humble because God didn't have to choose us
(Rom 11:20-21)

Humble because of being saved realizing we have
been sinful (Luke 18:9-14)

Dedicated Worship (2 Chron 6:14-18)

Worship God's greatness (14)

Praise God for His greatness because of His acts of
power (Ps 150:2)

Praise God for His greatness because He is the
Lord (Ezek 38:23)

Praise God for His greatness because He is worthy
(Ps 48:1)

Praise God for His greatness because He is the
great King (Ps 95:3)

Worship God's faithfulness (15-16)

A faithfulness that is based on a Divine promise
(Heb 11:11)

A faithfulness that should be committed to (1 Peter
4:19)

A faithfulness that is irrevocable (Rom 11:29)

A faithfulness that means it will be done (1 Thess
5:24)

A faithfulness that cannot be disowned (2 Tim 2:13)

A faithfulness that is unswerving (Heb 10:23)

A faithfulness that is just and powerful (1 John 1:9)

Worship God's truth (17)

Truth that convicts me to believe and obey (Rom
16:25-27)

Truth that comes with power and deep convictions
(1 Thess 1:5)

Truth that comes with a seal (Eph 1:13)

Truth that brings hope (Col 1:5)

Worship God's Presence (18)

Worship God's presence for His unfailing love (Ps
119:76)

Worship God's presence for His peace (Isa 54:10)

Worship God's presence for His rest (Ex 33:14)

Worship God's presence for His comfort in trials
(Isa 43:1-2)

Worship God's presence for His being with us until
the end of time (Matt 28:19-20)

Worship God's presence for His warming of the
heart (Luke 24:30-32)

Dedicated Petition (2 Chron 6:19-21)

Petition for hearing prayers (19-20)

Heard because God always hears the prayers of His
saints (Ps 65:2)

Heard because God knows all before the prayer is
spoken (Isa 65:24)

Heard because God is the patient hope of all
saints (Mic 7:7)

Heard because God promised that what is asked
will be received (Matt 7:7-8)

Petition for forgiveness (21)

Forgiveness because all will face judgment (Heb
9:27)

Forgiveness because of being accountable to God
(Rom 14:12)

Forgiveness from a faithful Lord (1 John 1:8-9)

Forgiveness through Jesus' blood (Matt 26:28)

Forgiveness through God's grace (Eph 1:7)