

**The Seventy return (10:17-24)**

*17 Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." 18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."*

*21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. 22 All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him." 23 Then He turned to His disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see; 24 for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it."*

- The Seventy return with their report, full of joy. Even the demons were under their authority through the Name of Jesus!

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- What Jesus said in the Greek was: "I was watching Satan fall..." This creates questions as to what He meant.
- More important than worldly success or success in ministry is knowing that your name has been recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life!
- This is the strongest language used to describe the joy of Jesus in the entire Bible. He is thanking the Father for revealing these things to the "insignificant" people of the world. The religious leaders, according to Jesus, were missing out.
- The disciples should be grateful for being allowed to see prophecy fulfilled.
- Jesus uses very strong language to claim unity with His Father, and that only He really knows the Father, and vice versa. This is the strongest statement from Him about Himself and His relationship with the Father outside John's Gospel.

**The lawyer's question; the Good Samaritan (10:25-37)**

*25 And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" 27 So he answered and said, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" 28 And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live."*

- The scribes were honored experts in the Law of Moses. By this time, they were really the teachers of the people, not the priests.
- The scribes were called *rabbi*, which means "my great one (master)."

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- The question of how people could inherit eternal life was much debated.
- In Jesus' day there were two main schools of disciples: the School of Hillel and the School of Shammai. Jesus emphasized things that Hillel emphasized, such as mercy and love.
- The commandment to love God is the essence of the Law, and "the greatest commandment." Loving your neighbor as yourself is the second.
- We can only truly love God and our neighbor in such a fashion by having God's own love within us! "Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us" (Romans 5:5). By the indwelling Spirit of God, God enables us to bear good fruit, and live a life that is pleasing to Him.

*29 But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"*

*30 Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. 33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave [cont'd]*

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*them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.'* 36 *So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?"* 37 *And he said, "He who showed mercy on him."* Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

- The Jericho Road was extremely dangerous, and full of bandits. Many priests lived in Jericho, and priests and Levites traveled this road often.
- There might be an obligation to help fellow Israelites, but what was the real extent of the commandment to love your neighbor? There could be no more unlikely person to be the hero of this story than a Samaritan.
- Priests and Levites, God's chosen leaders, failed to help. What motivated them to avoid the man? We don't know.
- Jesus only says we are to "do likewise," and show compassion to others without regard to who they may be! We need to live out our love. There can be no "religious fences" when it comes to loving our neighbor.

**Choosing the better part (10:38-42)**

*38 Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. 40 But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." [continued]*

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*41 And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. 42 But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”*

- We meet these two sisters whose brother was the famous Lazarus.
- Mary had captured the heart of worship for the Lord! She sat before Him like a disciple, and we can be sure that this was extremely unusual for a woman.
- Jesus did not overlook Martha’s service. God will reward us for even the smallest of kindnesses done in His Name. However, sometimes people must even delay necessary work in order to receive from Jesus!
- Before Palm Sunday, Martha was again serving, but the Gospels don’t record her complaining at that time. Martha had a wonderful faith and made a stunning confession of faith in Jesus – the only woman to do so in the Gospels!
- Don't we need some Marthas as well as some Marys?
- Perhaps our Marthas need to Mary a bit, and our Marys need to Martha a bit!

**The Lord’s Prayer (11:1-4)**

*1 Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.”*  
*2 So He said to them, “When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 3 Give us day by day our daily bread. 4 And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”*

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- People have suggested that something about Jesus' praying made the disciples feel inadequate about their own praying.
- The "Lord's Prayer" is the perfect pattern for our praying, and not something to be repeated mindlessly. It shows us God's priorities for us in prayer.
  - First, we see the Fatherhood of God that we share.
  - The second thing is the humility we need in our praying. God is “heavenly” and He is other than us. He is not my equal!
  - Third (and the first request), we pray for the Lord's Name to be hallowed, or sanctified – made holy, or set apart as holy.
  - The fourth thing is a prayer for the coming of the Kingdom of God. This prayer asks God to break into the world now, in the day we’re living in, but it’s also a way to say, "Come quickly, Lord Jesus!"
  - The next petition is for the Will of God to be done. In every situation the most important thing is that the Will of God be done. Thank God that Jesus prayed, "Not my Will, but Your Will be done."
  - This petition also speaks about the completeness of the Will of God. In Heaven, God’s Will is performed (1) with joy; (2) with a sense of humility, feeling privileged to serve Him; (3) without refusal; (4) without complaint; (5) without seeking glory for one's self; (6) without delay; (7) perfectly, fully and completely.
  - Sixth, we pray for provision. God desires to keep us in a place of dependence on Him, lest we fail to recognize Him as our life and source!
  - The seventh thing is a request for forgiveness, that we are willing to be forgiven on the same basis that we ourselves forgive!

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- The final request is that we be delivered from temptation and evil, or the "evil one." Don't be ashamed to pray this! If temptation came into the life of Jesus, it will certainly come to us.
- Matthew's version of this prayer is beneficial to read, and it shows us that to God alone belong **the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, now and forever!**

### **Importunity (11:5-8)**

*5 And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; 7 and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'? 8 I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs."*

- Jesus teaches us to be persistent or importunate. Someone has said that prayer is not about overcoming God's reluctance, but laying hold of God's willingness.
- It's been pointed out that the man without bread would have been subject to great embarrassment. Things which cause us pain should drive us to the Lord in prayer, not drive us away from him in discouragement.

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**How much more! (11:9-13)**

9 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks [cont'd] finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

- People have viewed all types of prayer as the same... and they are not!
- Some things may require simply asking in faith. As children of God we are promised the basic necessities of life; we should simply ask for these things.
- When searching out God's will or presence in our lives, God calls us to seek Him (see Jeremiah 29:13).
- There is also knocking prayer, where we need to lay hold upon God as if we were a man pounding on a door. Remember Jacob wrestling with the angel and saying, "I will not let you go unless you bless me" (Genesis 32:26b).
- The completely evil parent is something rare. The comparison is clear: if you wouldn't even do that, being evil, how much less would a good God do it?
- Jesus assures us that the Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him. In Matthew, Jesus said the Father would give "good things" to those who ask. Let us never slander the Lord by the way we approach Him in prayer!

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