

“The Missing Ingredient” Part 4

Mount of Olives | September 28, 2025 | Colossians 4:5-6

Pastor John Steward

Prayer of the Day

Lord Jesus, as we go about our daily lives, interacting with friends and strangers, help us to be reflections of Your love and grace. Assist us in being intentional about showing kindness to others whether through a smile, a kind word or a simple act of service. Thank You for being the essence of goodness. In Your name we pray, Amen.

Scripture Reading

Colossians 4:5-6

Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.

Message Notes

Ephesians 6:1-4

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—this is the first commandment with a promise: "so that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Colossians 4:6

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.

Matthew 7:12

"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets."

Ephesians 4:26

Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger

Proverbs 16:32

One who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and one whose temper is controlled than one who captures a city.

Study Questions

Read **Colossians 4:1-6**

ICEBREAKER – Getting started:

1. What's one way you like to be shown fairness or respect in daily life?
2. Can you think of a time when someone's words really encouraged or lifted you up?
3. If you could ask God to open a door for you right now, what would it be?

Based on Colossians 4:1-6, answer the following questions:

OBSERVATION – What does the text say?

1. As you read **Colossians 4:1-6**, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?
2. In one sentence, how would you summarize this text?
3. What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?

INTERPRETATION – What does the text mean?

1. In verse 1, Paul tells masters to provide what is "just and fair." What does this reveal about how Christians in authority should treat others?
2. How might Paul's teaching to masters in verse 1 apply to modern-day leaders, employers, or those with influence?
3. Verse 2 calls believers to be "devoted to prayer." What does it look like to practice devotion in prayer, not just occasional praying?
4. Why does Paul link prayer with being "watchful and thankful"? How do these attitudes shape our prayer life?
5. In verses 3–4, Paul asks for prayer so that God may "open a door for our message." What does this teach us about dependence on God in sharing the gospel?
6. How might Paul's request for boldness and clarity in preaching challenge the way we think about evangelism?
7. Verse 5 encourages believers to "be wise in the way you act toward outsiders." What might this wisdom look like in daily interactions?
8. How does the idea of "making the most of every opportunity" (v. 5) challenge the way we use our time and relationships?
9. Verse 6 speaks of conversations being "full of grace, seasoned with salt." What does this image mean, and how can it guide the way we speak to others?
10. How can we balance truth and grace in our conversations, especially with people who do not share our faith?
11. What role does gratitude play in shaping both prayer (v. 2) and speech (v. 6)?
12. Looking at verses 1–6 as a whole, how do prayer, wisdom, and gracious speech all work together in living out our witness to Christ?

APPLICATION – How can you apply the text?

1. Paul reminds masters to treat their servants justly and fairly (v.1). How can you apply this principle of fairness and justice in your workplace, home, or relationships today?
2. Verse 2 calls believers to be steadfast in prayer, watchful, and thankful. What practical steps can you take this week to strengthen your prayer life in these three areas?
3. Paul asks for prayer that God would open doors for the word (vv.3–4). Who in your life might God be calling you to pray for and to share the gospel with?
4. Verse 5 encourages us to walk in wisdom toward outsiders. What does wisdom look like in your interactions with non-Christians, and where do you see opportunities to live this out?
5. Verse 6 says our speech should always be gracious, "seasoned with salt." In what situations do you struggle most to have gracious words, and how can you depend on the Spirit to help you?