

20160605 Powerful Prayers Pt2

Introduction

(Adapted from a series called Dangerous Prayers by Craig Groeschel)

We are in- middle of a three part series on Prayer.

Prayer involves communication/relationship.

Prayer comes in many forms ...

>petition/intercession

>praise/thanksgiving

>confession/complaints

We also see prayer in the gift of tongues ... **For**

one who speaks in a tongue does not

speak to men but to God ... (1 Cor 14:2)

Inherent in our praying are the assumptions that-

>there is a personal God

>He hears our prayers

>He cares about us/situation

>He has the power/ability to answer prayers

Prayer- process of interaction w/God that brings-

>our heart into alignment w/His heart

>revelation from above- eyes/ears- see/hear

>moves the heart/hand of God

**Jam 5:16 ... The effective prayer of a
righteous man can accomplish much.**

Review

Last week we looked at Psa 139.23-24 ...

Psalm 139:23–24

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart;

Try me and know my anxious thoughts;

²⁴And see if there be any hurtful way in

me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

As David prayed- we need to pray ...

1. Search my heart

2. Reveal my fears

3. Uncover my sins

4. Lead me

Are we ready to be courageous in our prayers?

Here I am God. Anywhere, anytime, I am available to you. Send me.

Today- pray another challenging prayer.

Break Me and Pour Me Out

We are going- pray ... break me and pour me out.

Too often we keep our life with God very superficial- when God wants all of us.

What does it mean to be broken and poured out?

To understand this prayer- look at two stories in the Bible- both found in Mark 14.

1st story is about a prostitute-

1st century- women did not want- be prostitutes- usually driven there out of a need for survival.

Prostitutes were hated and despised- they were hated by women and used by men.

One day-she met a man-treated her different

He treated her with honor, respect, dignity, and

He loved her in a appropriate way.

She was so transformed by this encounter- her first response was to fall down/worship Him.

A true encounter w/God will bring us to a place of worship- 1st part- mission- Encounter God.

Her worship was so extravagant that it stunned others around her ...

Mk 14:3 While He was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper, and reclining at the table, there came a woman with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume of pure nard; and she broke the vial and poured it over His head.

First, Jesus- in- home of a leper, another outcast.
People would run from lepers ...

>Jesus loved them.

>Jesus would move towards them.

Truth: We can take hope that Jesus will move towards us as well, no matter what our lives look like.

Draw near to God/He will draw near to you (Ja 4.8).

The woman comes in w/very expensive perfume.

Perfume- so valuable- we find in another Gospel- it was valued at a year's worth of wages.

What do you earn in a year- 20K, 30K, 40K?

Perfume was a prostitute's calling card- it was her present livelihood/investment for- future.

... she broke the vial and poured it over His head.

She broke it and she poured it out on Jesus.

This was-act of extravagant worship/thanksgiving.

She poured out her ...

>livelihood- what she needed to live on and

>future investment- hope of survival- future

She was willing to risk it all for Jesus- how willing are we to risk it all for Jesus?

What she did was good- but it bothered others.

Mark 14:4-5

4But some were indignantly remarking to one another, "Why has this perfume been wasted?"

5"For this perfume might have been sold for over three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they were scolding her.

Are we bothered by others extravagant worship-
>dancing/jumping before the Lord
>exuberant and loud praise/banners/flags

Why would we be bothered? Perhaps it brings
into question our own lack of passion for God.
She was saying ...

I am giving you my whole life.

**I am giving you the most valuable
possession I have.**

This represents my past/present/future.

She was really saying ...

**For you Lord, I am leaving my past life of
sin behind, and trusting God with the
future.**

She broke/poured out expensive perfume- but
was in essence pouring out her own life.

2nd story- Jesus was eating His last meal-

Jesus is gathered together with His closest
friends and He is eating His last meal.

Mark 14:22-24

**²²While they were eating, He took some
bread, and after a blessing He broke it,
and gave it to them, and said, "Take it;
this is My body."**

**²³And when He had taken a cup and
given thanks, He gave it to them, and
they all drank from it.**

**²⁴And He said to them, "This is My blood
of the covenant, which is poured out for
many.**

Jesus body would be broken/His blood poured
out- for you and me- broken and poured out.

Both Jesus/prostitute were saying ...

I am breaking my jar as an act of worship and I am willingly pouring it out, giving to God everything I am and everything I have.

Broken and poured out.

Luke tells this same story and adds some additional information for us ...

Lk 22:19 And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

Jesus instructs us to do this in remembrance of Him- what does He mean?

Most of us agree that this means we are to take communion and remember the sacrifice Christ made for us so we can have eternal life.

We celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus. Perhaps though, we have missed the greater message in what Jesus is saying.

Yes we take communion and celebrate that He was broken and poured out for us.

Perhaps Jesus is saying we also need to allow ourselves to be broken and poured out for His sake and the worlds sake.

Jesus is saying- remember what I did so you can be broken and poured out as well.

God calls us to live as Jesus lived and to love as Jesus loved.

We are to die to ourselves daily so that we can live for His glory.

Jesus is not just interested in a ritual where we eat a piece of bread and drink grape juice.

He is saying that we also are to be broken and poured out as He was- for His/world's sake.

Look at the words of Paul the Apostle ...

Phil 2:17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all.

Paul was beaten, left for dead, ship wrecked- in his service to God- he was willing to be poured out for God/for the faith of others.

God is looking for us to be willing to be broken and poured for Him and for His Kingdom.

When we are truly spiritually broken before God it changes our whole value system and we no longer care what others think about how we worship God.

Like the people that scolded the prostitute for her extravagant worship- she did not care.

We impress people with our strengths but we connect most deeply with people through our brokenness (weakness).
(Craig Groeschel)

It is when we open up, humble ourselves, expose our sin, cry out before others, that we connect most deeply with people.

Nobody wants to be broken- it is hard to imagine what is on the other side of brokenness.

As we go through times of breaking we gain some of our deepest revelation about ourselves and about God.

Brokenness- not a single event- ongoing process.

God wants to deliver us from our sin/selfishness and teach us to depend on Him.

The dealings of God always lead to great blessing-God never wastes a hurt in our lives. Now, sometimes we waste those hurts by getting bitter and resentful towards God or others.

Peter, who said, "**Jesus, I'll never deny you,**" denied Him three times.

On the third time, Jesus is looking right at Peter as Peter was denying Him. Peter broke.

Peter also, after being forgiven by Jesus, was chosen to be the speaker on- day of Pentecost Three thousand people- born in the family of God.

Those who God uses the greatest, are often those who have been broken the deepest.

We need to come to the place where we cry out-

>I need God

>I need the Holy Spirit

>I need His people

>I no longer worry about what others think, I give it all to You God

It is in times when we are facing breaking that we can either run to God or run from God.

Summary

Let our prayer be ...

Break me of ME that I can serve you, Lord, with all of my life, I surrender ME completely to you.

The Gospel is an invitation to come/die. (Gal 2.20)

We die to ourselves so Jesus can live through us.

When the prostitute broke open the jar of perfume she was saying- I am giving you all of my life.

Broken and poured out.

When Jesus' body was broken, it was broken for you and it was broken for me.

His blood- poured out so- sins might be forgiven.

Jesus said, **“Do this in remembrance of me.”**

This is not just a call to remember a ritual, it is a call to live our lives like Christ- broken/poured out.

God brings breaking in our lives but to enable us to depend fully on Him.

Mat 21:44 “And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust.”

We want to fall on the stone and not have the stone fall on us in judgment.

Break me God ...

>of my pride/anger

>of my self-sufficiency, independence

>of my lust/impatience

On the other side of brokenness are the blessings of God and His supernatural, resurrection life.

If there is an area of our life that needs, breaking, then there is a blessing we have yet to experience.

Break us God to the point where we know we have nothing else to hold on to but You.

Break us and pour us out for the glory of Your Kingdom and for the sake of the world.