

## DESPERATE PRAYERS

### What's Wrong With This Picture?

Luke 22:39-46/ Matthew 26:38-39/ Mark 14:32-36

### How To Pray In The Face Of A Major Crisis

Luke 22:39-46

- (1) What I do **before the crisis** determines  
how much strength I will have **in the crisis**  
Luke 22:39-40 & 46/ Colossians 3:2/ Matthew 6:13/ Matthew 7:24-27/ 1 Peter 5:6-10

- (2) If I'm going to pray like Jesus – my prayers will be:

- ✓ **Brief**  
Luke 22:42/ Matthew 6:7-13
  
- ✓ Brutally **Honest**  
Luke 22:42/ Habakkuk 1:2-4/ Job 10:2-3, 18-22/ Matthew 27:45-46 & Psalm 22:1
  
- ✓ Shamelessly **Persistent**  
Luke 22:42-44/ 2 Corinthians 12:7-10/ Luke 11:5-10 & 18:1-8
  
- ✓ **Humbly** Offered  
Luke 22:42 & Galatians 2:21/ 2 Samuel 12:13-25/ 2 Corinthians 12:8-10  
Hebrews 12:2-3

- (3) The Key to Courage:

- ✓ Giving thanks for **the good** in the midst of **the bad**  
Philippians 4:6-7

## TAKING IT HOME

1. Larry said that the key to courage is giving thanks for the good in the midst of the bad. Even though we just celebrated Thanksgiving, take a few moments to think through the good in your life that you are thankful for. Now take some time to talk to God about your list.

2. In 1 Peter 5:7 we're given instructions on how to handle the worry that often accompanies crisis—*"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."* Are there any cares you have that you need to cast on him?

### Prayer Requests:

- ⇒
- ⇒
- ⇒
- ⇒
- ⇒
- ⇒

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### "The Hanukkah/Christmas Connection"

Monday, December 12, 7-9pm; \$7/person. \$10/two

This is the season where the Christian world pauses to celebrate the coming of the Messiah. Meanwhile, the Jewish world is celebrating the lessons of Hanukkah. What most do not realize is that the two holidays are actually closely connected. In this class, Rabbi Barney Kasdan (a Messianic Jew) will explain the background of the Jewish festival and why it should be important to every believer in Jesus/Yeshua. This would be a great Growth Group social. Register at [northcoastchurch.com/ncu](http://northcoastchurch.com/ncu).

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(2) If I'm going to pray like Jesus – my prayers will be:

✓ \_\_\_\_\_  
Luke 22:42/ Matthew 6:7-13

✓ Brutally \_\_\_\_\_  
Luke 22:42/ Habakkuk 1:2-4/ Job 10:2-3, 18-22/ Matthew 27:45-46 & Psalm 22:1

✓ Shamelessly \_\_\_\_\_  
Luke 22:42-44/ 2 Corinthians 12:7-10/ Luke 11:5-10 & 18:1-8

✓ \_\_\_\_\_ Offered  
Luke 22:42 & Galatians 2:21/ 2 Samuel 12:13-25/ 2 Corinthians 12:8-10  
Hebrews 12:2-3

(3) The Key to Courage:

✓ Giving thanks for \_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of \_\_\_\_\_  
Philippians 4:6-7

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of November 27, 2011

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from *Desperate Prayers*, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## MY STORY

1. Do you notice any difference in your prayers when you are facing a major crisis as opposed to when things are going pretty smoothly?

In what circumstances is it easiest for you to pray? When is it the hardest?

2. When you were growing up, which statement best captures how crisis was handled by the people you lived with? (mark any that apply)

- Oh no, the sky is falling
- God's going to grow us through this
- Don't let anybody know we're in a crisis
- At least we know that God's here
- Ignore it and maybe it will go away
- We need to find out whose fault it is
- Ask, "why is this happening to us?"
- Let's pray about it
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Is how you face crisis today any different from your response above?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. Psalm 77 is a good example of an honest prayer in the midst of a tough situation. After reading it, answer the following questions:

How do you see Asaph honestly expressing his thoughts and emotions to God in this Psalm?

What helps Asaph gain perspective concerning his situation?

How can you balance being honest with God with not feeling like you're becoming a whiner or complainer?

2. Healthy communication with God is dependent on us being on good terms with him. Unfortunately, like any relationship, there can be roadblocks that we may or may not be aware of that erode and even cut off our communication with him. What potential roadblocks do the following verses describe?

Proverbs 21:13

Matthew 5:23-24

Mark 11:25

James 4:3-4

Is there one that you think people tend to forget more than others? Which one is most important for you to remember?

3. Larry mentioned that what you do before the crisis determines how much strength you have in the crisis. What do the following passages suggest we need to understand or be doing in order to be prepared for a crisis?

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Matthew 7:24-27

James 1:2-4

Can you think of anything else that has helped you be prepared for a crisis?