



The Disciple

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The Power of Praying In Jesus' Name, Amen

By Max Lucado, from *Before Amen*

IT troubles you, fatigues you, shames you. **IT** is the disease you can't heal, the job you can't stomach, the marriage you can't fix, the rage you can't tame.

IT hurts.

IT looms over life. Two towering letters, tall and defiant. **IT!** They march like Frankenstein's monster. Each step a thud. Each thud an earthquake. *Clomp. Clomp. Clomp. IT! IT! IT!*

"Look out! Here **IT** comes!" "I can't take **IT** anymore!"

IT overshadows and intimidates everyone —everyone, that is, except people who take **IT** to Jesus. People like the Roman soldier.

He was a centurion. He held unquestioned authority over his men. Yet there was something special about this particular officer. He loved his servant.

'Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.' And Jesus said to him, 'I will come and heal him'. — Matthew 8:6-7

The soldier's prayer was un-embroidered. He simply stated a fact: "My servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."

That was enough to set Jesus in motion. He turned and immediately began to walk in the direction of the centurion's house. But the officer stopped him.

Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it.

— Matthew 8:8-9

Continued on Page 2



Continued from Page 1

The centurion understood the dynamic of authority. He was a man *under* authority and a man *with* authority. His superiors sent directives to him, and he obeyed. He gave commands, and his soldiers obeyed. They didn't question his decisions. The Roman army respected the chain of command. The centurion knew authority when he saw it. And he saw ultimate authority in Jesus Christ.

“Only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.” [Jesus] marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!.. Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.” And his servant was healed that same hour.

— Matthew 8:8, Matthew 8:10, Matthew 8:13

The centurion's confidence in Jesus ran deep. Jesus could handle the request long distance. Just a word from Jesus would suffice. Jesus was stunned. *Finally*, His response implies, *someone understands my authority!*

Do we?

Jesus has unimpeachable authority.

He sustains everything by the mighty power of His command. — Hebrews 1:3

God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name.

— Philippians 2:9

The Roman government tried to intimidate Him. False religion tried to silence Him. The devil tried to kill Him. All failed. Even “death was no match for Him” (Acts 2:24 MSG).

Jesus “disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by His victory over them on the cross” (Colossians 2:15 NLT). He was not kidding when He declared,

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. — Matthew 28:18

Jesus is the command center of the galaxies.

Two sparrows cost only a penny, but not even one of them can die without your Father's knowing it.

— Matthew 10:29 NCV

He occupies the Oval Office. He called a coin out of the mouth of a fish. He stopped the waves with a word. He spoke, and a tree withered. He spoke again, and a basket became a banquet. Economy. Meteorology. Botany. Food supply.

All things have been handed over to me by my Father. — Matthew 11:27

That includes Satan. The devil was soundly defeated by Christ on the cross. Jesus outranks him in every situation. He must obey Jesus, and he knows it.

Prayers offered in the name of Jesus have “divine power to demolish strongholds” (2 Corinthians 10:4 NIV). Demolish! Not damage or hamper but demolish. Prayer falls on strongholds like lit matches on a grass hut.

The devil fears prayer. Imagine this scene. He sat in the back of the room during a strategy session. A dozen demons had gathered to hear a report on the life of a particularly stalwart saint.

“He won't

stumble,” groused



Continued on Page 3

the imp responsible for his demise. “No matter what I do, he won’t turn his back on God.”

The council began to offer suggestions.

“Take his purity,” one said.

“I tried,” replied the fiend, “but he is too moral.” “Take his health,” urged another.

“I did, but he refused to grumble or complain.” “Take his belongings.”

“Are you kidding? I’ve stripped the man of every penny and possession. Yet he still rejoices.”

For a few moments no one spoke. Finally, from the back of the room, came the low, measured voice of Satan himself. The entire council turned as the fallen angel rose to his feet. His pale face was all but hidden by the hood. A long cape covered his body. He raised his bony hand and made his point. “It’s not enough to take his purity. It’s not enough to take his health. It’s not enough to take his belongings. You must take what matters most.” “What is that?” asked the subordinate.

“You must take his prayer.”

Prayer slaps handcuffs on Satan. Prayer takes problems out of the domain of the devil and into the presence of God. Prayer confesses, “God can handle IT. Since He can, I have hope!” When we pray in the name of Jesus, we come to God on the basis of Jesus’ accomplishment.

Since we have a great high priest [Jesus] over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith. — Hebrews 10:21–22

As our high priest, Jesus offers our prayers to God. His prayers are always heard.

Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you.

— John 16:23

There are those who say, “Prayer changes things because it changes us.” I agree but only in part. Prayer changes things because prayer appeals to the top power in the universe. Prayer is not a magical formula or a mystical chant. It is the yes to God’s invitation to invoke His name.

Mark it down: IT won’t have the last word. Jesus will.

God raised [Christ] from death and set Him on a throne in deep heaven, in charge of running the universe, everything from galaxies to governments, no name and no power exempt from His rule. And not just for the time being, but forever. He is in charge of it all, has the final word on everything.

— Ephesians 1:20–22 MSG

The phrase “In Jesus’ name” is not an empty motto or talisman. It is a declaration of truth: My cancer is not in charge; Jesus is. The economy is not in charge; Jesus is. The grumpy neighbor doesn’t run the world; Jesus, You do! You, Jesus, are the Head Coach, CEO, President, King, Supreme Ruler, Absolute Monarch, High and Holy Baron, Czar, Overlord, and Rajah of all history.

Just speak the word, Jesus . . .

Pray! Since God works, prayer works.

Since God is good, prayer is good.

Since you matter to God, your prayers matter in heaven. You’re never without hope, because you’re never without prayer. And on the occasions you can’t find the words to say, pull these out of your pocket:

Father,

You are good. I need help. Heal me and forgive me. They need help.

Thank You.

A Memorial Day Prayer

(Inspired by Mark 10:35-45)

God in Christ, your Gospel lays out before us a vision of service:

desiring a place of privilege, you call us to humility;

wanting glory, you show us that true glory comes when we act with justice and with love;

coveting greatness, you teach us that greatness comes when we lay down our lives for others as you did for us.

On Memorial Day we are given this opportunity to remember your vision of service, to remember those who have exemplified it, and to remember those, in particular, who have exemplified it in military service to this country.

we remember our soldiers who died in far-away lands;

we remember our soldiers who died back home;

we remember our soldiers who have not died, but who suffer from the wounds and trauma they experienced through their service;

we remember the military families who have experienced the costs and joys of service;

we remember the ongoing need in our communities to care for our military families;

we remember our leaders who have been given the authority to deploy our troops, and we pray for their wisdom and restraint;

we remember Christ's vision of service and we ask for the strength to enact his vision wherever we are and in whatever we do;

and loving God in Christ, as we remember, we also express our longing for a world where "war" is a word we no longer know, and "peace" is a word that describes, not what WILL BE, but what IS.

We pray this in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus the Christ, AMEN.



Our Thanks, O God, For Mothers

LOIS S. JOHNSON

Our thanks, O God,
for mothers who
follow in Thy way,
and who, with glad
and trusting hearts,
exalt Thee every day.

Our thanks, O God,
for mothers who show,
by word and deed,
commitment to Thy will and plan,
and Thy commandments heed.

Our thanks, O God,
for parents who meet
oft in prayer, and who,
for all life's toil and care,
find strength and wisdom there.

How blessed are the children
who in their parent's see
the tender Father love of God,
and find their way



UPCOMING EVENTS



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**For a POTLUCK Dinner
Sunday, May 29**

(after 11 AM Worship Service.)

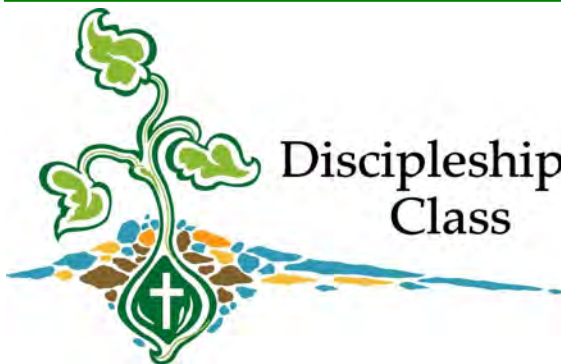
It will be a time to honor graduates from 2020, 2021, and 2022 and to get to know new additions to our church congregation. Plan on bring a dish to share.



Board Meeting Next Meeting
May 10, 2022

7:30 PM

Look for meeting documents and Zoom info on
May 9, 2022.



**Discipleship
Class**

Join Pastor
Vincent Klüg
to explore
discipleship in
the Disciples of
Christ

denomination, the community, and within our own
congregation. Open to all with interest.

May 15, May 22, and May 29

Contact Pastor Klüg for information.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

E. Wilson P.	May 2
Valerie W.	May 7
Wilbur W.	May 10
John E.	May 14
Sherry D.	May 15
Gerald L.	May 16
Sherri S.	May 16
Frank S.	May 17
Kaleb C.	May 18
Rita M.	May 21
Jack P.	May 22
Derrick W.	May 24



Blooming With With Thanks

Thanks to my Church Family,

I want to thank each of you who have reached out to me during my second surgery at the end of March. I appreciate your phone calls, notes and cards so much. This certainly was a difficult surgery and my recovery will be slow and rather lengthy.

Special thanks to DeAnna Canning, Debra Hoyt, Penny Best and Dana Klug for handling duties of mine that I cannot handle at this time. My church family is the best! Hope to see everyone before too long.

Pat Purcell



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES! 2022



High School Graduates

Megan Morris
Elissa Hoyt
Lauren Dessent
Carter Knight
Lydia Gillespie

College Graduates

Carley Knight
Sarah Canning
Ann Duke

Always Be A Student

By Joanna Fuchs

Keep on learning, (graduate's name),
Though your graduation's done;
Your whole life's an education
That has only just begun.

Your diploma is the first big step,
For knowledge is the special key
To winning what you want in life
And being who you want to be.

If you'll always be a student,
You'll find the secrets to success
And travel on the golden road
To peace and happiness.