

Open Thou My Lips

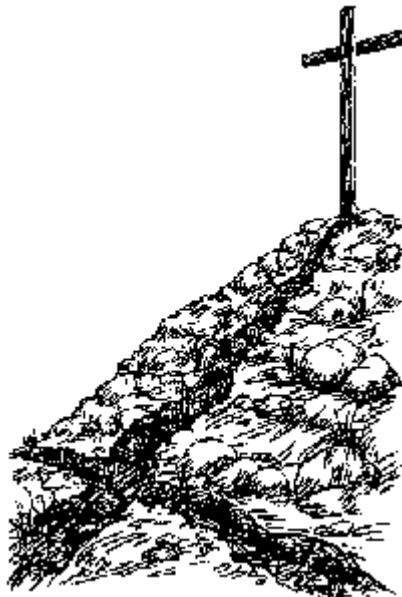
Psalms 51:15-17

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On Father's Day children all across our land will buy their dads, granddads, step dads, or papaws gifts and thank them for being their dads. At least, many children will do this. Some won't think of it until I mention it in this sermon. Some, like my dad, will receive their presents late because their sons were busy tending to others. Many times both mom and dad get their presents - and well wishes - late. It's sad, but true.

Though many will have a "Happy Father's Day", and some a not so happy Father's Day - for your parents may be with Jesus - in the bustle of this Father's Day I want to stop and talk about giving Another Father a present. This Father is not hard to buy for. He doesn't wear a tie, so there's no need to buy Him one. He doesn't drive a car, so He doesn't need seat covers or wax. He has His own cologne - you smell it each time you step outside and smell flowers in the breeze. This Father, the Father of All Creation, our Eternal God, has a short list of things He wants for Father's Day.

(Psalms 51:15-17 KJV) "O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall show forth thy praise. {16} For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give *it*: thou delightest not in burnt offering. {17} The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."

What does God the Father want?

1. Our Father Wants Our Praise

(Psalms 51:15 KJV) "O Lord, open thou my lips; and

my mouth shall show forth thy praise.”

God our Father wants a people who will praise Him! But praise doesn't flow naturally from these pitiful vessels that we call human flesh. Our natural tendency, as humans, is to follow an Old Sin Nature. Our natural desires - those which we are born with - are to gain more and more. If we discover a goldmine, we want two. If we make a million dollars, we want two. We are told in the Book of Job:

(Job 14:1-4 NASB) "Man, who is born of woman, is short-lived and full of turmoil. {2} "Like a flower he comes forth and withers. He also flees like a shadow and does not remain. {3} "Thou also dost open Thine eyes on him, And bring him into judgment with Thyself. {4} "Who can make the clean out of the unclean? No one!"

We are born *unborn*: we are born into this life lost and full of greed. Our good is not good before God, for our Heavenly Father sees our hearts. That which we offer may outwardly appear beautiful, but inwardly the giver (that's YOU, if you are yet LOST and WITHOUT CHRIST) is full of rot. Every dollar placed on the plate is given grudgingly, as little as possible. Every thing done outside of God's cleansing an abomination, fit only for the dung-heap. As the Scripture says:

(Romans 3:10-14 KJV) "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: {11} There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. {12} They are all gone out of the way, they are

together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. {13} Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: {14} Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.."

Poisoned and addling tongues, like serpents, have no power to praise God. This is why David called on the Father and *asked Him to open his mouth*. He said:

(Psalms 51:15 KJV) "O Lord, open thou my lips ...

“Lord, *enable* me to praise You. You open my mouth. You make it possible. You give me the power ...

... and my mouth shall show forth thy praise.”

1. God desires our praise. Before we can praise Him, though, what must occur in our lives? (Psalms 51:15; Job 14:1-4)

2. Are all humans naturally *good*? Am I inherently good? Why or why not? (Romans 3:10-14)

and I will praise You! Once God enables, *we are able*. Does God want to hear our praise? Absolutely! He wants us to *meditate* on the blessings that He has given us, and then out of that heart of thanksgiving to praise Him.

It was a broken hearted God who said to Israel, His first
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chosen:

(Psalms 81:10-14 KJV) "*I am* the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it. {11} But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me. {12} So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: *and* they walked in their own counsels. {13} Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, *and* Israel had walked in my ways! {14} I should soon have subdued their enemies, and turned my hand against their adversaries."

God saved Israel from Egypt, enabled her to praise Him ... yet all she did was stare at Him when He asked for praise. All Israel did was reject and murmur and complain. Oh Beloved, can you not feel God's desire for praise? How dare we withhold it once we have been granted the power? Israel did so, and continued to reject praising God and the first generation died gasping in the wilderness.

The Father wants the praise of His people. The Father wants to be glorified by those whom He has saved. *Seventy eight times* in Scripture we are told to **praise the LORD**. Ten times we are told to **glorify God** in verses like this:

(Psalms 86:12-13 KJV) "I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore. {13} For great *is* thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell."

and this;

(Romans 15:6 KJV) "That ye may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

3. How did God treat Israel when she failed to obediently praise Him? Does God our Father take failure to praise Him *personally*? (Psalms 81:10-14)

4. How is our Church to praise the Lord? (Romans 15:6; Psalms 86:12-13)

When we do not glorify God, when we do not do what we can to praise the Father's holy Name, we are guilty of the same blasphemy that Israel was guilty of. Listen Beloved! The Church must not be like the world, but the Church needs to be more like Heaven than anything else on earth. When people come into this place they should feel and know the presence of God. God is surely in this place! If the Church is like Heaven, and we praise and worship our Father, we will give Him that which He wants. (see Revelation 5:7-13)

What are our lame praises in comparison with His love? Nothing, and less than nothing; but love will stammer rather than be dumb. (Robert Leighton)

2. Our Father Wants Our Will

(Psalms 51:16-17a KJV) "For thou desirest¹ not sacrifice²; else would I give *it*: thou delightest³ not in burnt offering⁴. {17} The sacrifices² of God *are* a broken spirit ..."

¹ chaphets {pronounced khaw-fates'}, Qal Imperfect, to take pleasure in

² zebach {pronounced zeh'-bakh}, sacrifices of dead things, the ritual of taking animal life and giving that life to God on an altar

³ ratsah {pronounced raw-tsaw'}, Qal Imperfect, to look on and be pleased with [ritualism]

⁴ hlwe {pronounced 'owlah o-law'}, whole burnt offerings

Our Father does not want the empty rituals that we bring to Him. He does not want something done with no heart behind it. He wants us – all of us. David states this in an interesting way.

Few people in today's modern Church understand *why* God ordained that the Old Testament Saint sacrifice animals on an altar. This is because few people like to talk about the Blood. But I love talking about the Blood, for the Blood is the source of life and the source of Eternal Life. So it might make you squeamish, but let's talk about sacrifice and the Blood.

God ordained animal sacrifice, beginning with Adam and Eve's child Abel (remember the story of Cain and Abel?), as the means by which the Old Testament Saint atoned *or made offering to God for sin*. The animal sacrifices had no true value nor ability to wipe out a person's sin. The Bible teaches us that these sacrifices, ritualistic animal killings, were *shadows* of something wonderful that God was going to bring to humanity.

God desired a relationship with mankind, but God had to somehow forgive us of our sins. Our sins made us worthy of death – but God wanted to give us life. So He began to teach man, beginning with Abel, and ending with a Second Adam, that our sin was not something that effected only us. Our sin, Adam's sin, all sin has repercussions that can only be purged with the Blood of the Son. The Law and the sacrifices of the Law were *only a shadow*, as Hebrews tells us:

Hebrews 10:1-4 (KJV) "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. {2} For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshipers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. {3} But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. {4} For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins."

5. God ordained animal Blood sacrifice beginning with Abel, and ending with _____.

6. Is God happy with ritualism apart from a relationship with Him? Why or why not?

7. Why did God ordain animal Blood sacrifices?

God was not satisfied by the sacrifices of animals, nor with the burnt offerings. God cannot be appeased with a quick “I’m sorry”, and let’s all forget about it. God brought the animals to Abel’s altar to teach us that Blood would have to be shed – pure Blood – The Son’s Blood – to satisfy God. The ritual doesn’t satisfy God, though it taught us. The ritual never satisfies God, for He wants the *relationship*, the *obedience*, the *loving worship*, the *sonship* of every person who professes to know Him.

Hebrews 10:5-7 (KJV) "Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: {6} In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. {7} Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God."

The Son came doing the Will of the Father, even unto death. The Father demands that same obedience of we who are sons by adoption, sons by the precious shed Blood of Christ. Our text tells us that “**The sacrifices² of God are a broken spirit**”. Three times God the Son went to the Father in the Garden of Gethsemane seeking His Will. Three times the Father said, “Take this Cup, My Son, so I can save My people”. The Son, Eternal God in the flesh, surrendered Himself for you and for me. Now we **MUST** surrender to God the Father as God the Son surrendered to the Father.

Hebrews 10:8-10 (KJV) "Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst

pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; {9} Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. {10} By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

Our Father wants our will this Father's Day. He wants us to turn to Him and surrender our ego, obediently following Him as He leads. This is not an easy gift to

8. Jesus Christ was obedient to the will of God the Father, even to death. How can I imitate Christ in my walk with God?

give, Beloved, but it is one that you must give. Remember how Jesus gave, and bend your pride and your knees to the Father of all Creation!

Live to please God, and He will breathe on thee His peace. Seek His glory, and He will make thy heart His home. Do His will, and thereby good shall come to thee. (F. B. Meyer)

3. Our Father Wants Our Heart, but Broken

(Psalms 51:17 KJV) "... a broken¹ and a contrite² heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."

¹ shabar {pronounced shaw-bar'}, Niphal Participle, something crippled, maimed, or 10

wrecked

² dakah {pronounced daw-kaw?}, Niphal Participle, crushed or broken

Sometimes a thing must be broken to be used. Bibles, when first purchased, usually have gold gilding on their edges. Until you bend the pages, and break that gold from the edges, the Bible is hard to use. A pair of shoes are best worn once *broken in*, and the most comfortable clothes are those *well worn*, perhaps even frayed.

So it is with our hearts. While we stand before God with ego held high, pleased with ourselves and with our accomplishments, we cannot be truly used of God. If pride lifts your heart up remember the ancient proverb:

Proverbs 16:18 (KJV) "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."

Maybe your heart has been broken. Maybe you've made some mistakes, and God has punished you for them. Maybe life has just dealt you a number of crushing blows, and you feel as if you've lost your best friend. Maybe death has visited you, or a loved one, and you feel as if no air is left in the room. Even so, Praise the Lord, Beloved, for God works with broken hearts, but despises the proud. There's a song I know, I can't remember all of it, but it's an **Imperials** song that says:

**Praise the Lord,
He can work with those who praise Him,
Praise the Lord, Our God in Heaven Reigns!
Praise the Lord,
And the chains that seem to bind you,**

**Will fall down behind you, when you praise Him!
Now Satan is a liar, and He wants to make us think;
That we are pauper, though he knows himself,
We're children of the King.
So lift up the mighty shield of faith,
For the battle has been won!
Jesus Christ has risen,
And the work's already done!**

God wants your heart, and it is perhaps *more usable* now that it has been broken. Praise God for that breaking! Paul, a man whose heart was broken by nearly every church he tended – wrote:

2 Corinthians 12:10 (KJV) "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

When we surrender to God, giving Him all our heart, then He can make something of us. Our power is nothing apart from full surrender to our Heavenly Father in Jesus' name! Surrender to Him for salvation, but not only for salvation but for life.

9. Can God use me or this Church if I or it are lifted up with pride? Why or why not?