

“Asking of God, the Process”

By Brother Andy Giebler

Sunday, September 27th, 2015

Parrish: You know, some weeks ago, God was speaking to Brother Andy and myself, and He didn't tell either one of us that He was speaking to the other one. And, he spoke to both of us at night. He woke me up—I'll tell my side, and then Brother Andy can tell his side, as he prepares to come—but He said, “You're just not asking for enough.” And the Spirit was impressing how much God has for us which we leave on the table, or in the cupboard, or on the shelf; just leave with God what He's ready to give unto us. And so, our theme for the month, is, of course:

John 5:17 *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*

And, so, I waited a little while before I mentioned to Brother Andy, and, Andy, before I could tell him, before I could tell him, Brother Andy said, “You know, God woke me up,” and he's telling me—I'll let him tell it, but, we found out that God was speaking to both of us the same thing. We came to the understanding that we have to let everybody know. We have to let the people of God's congregation know that God is telling us that He has so much more, and we need to ask Him. Can we give the Lord a praise as we welcome, now, at this time, our fellowship leader, Andy Giebler?

Andy: God is faithful to prick our hearts, and show us things. Sometimes it's not what we want to hear, but... I'm going to go along with that story. I remember God waking me up. And this is all surrounding seeking God. It's more than just a list on a piece of paper, it's more than just the fact that God woke me up. God woke me up for a reason. It hadn't been the first time, and it won't be the last, but this one sticks out in my mind. Because, I remember, there have been times I've woken up and gone back to sleep, and wished I'd gotten up the next day, knowing I'd missed something. But this was one of those that God wouldn't let it go. God said, “I got something for you, and I'm not letting you go back to sleep.” It was a feeling of, “You don't want to go back to sleep.” Not of fear—and, sometimes God instills fear; sometimes it's a fear of judgment, but this wasn't one of those. It was, “I've got something for you, and you're going to miss something.” I got up, and I walked into the kitchen; 1:47, the time on the clock. And, God impressed upon me, “There are things that I've put on your heart. You've heard them, but you haven't done anything with them.” That's when God told me, “Get out some paper, and start writing these things down.” Because I'm only flesh, and I'm going to forget them. And, that is the beginning for me on this. A Parrish shared his experience, as we talked with Chris Ulrich and Jesse about this, and getting ready for this message, it's turned into something a whole lot bigger than just—we've got that piece of paper back there, and that's a huge tool. That's something we need, because this ministry, you know, we're not going to be in this room forever; we're not going to have this number of people. And, it's not about numbers; it's about souls. I drove by a church building that's for sale, and I thought, “That's huge!” You know? But I know it's not about me, it's not about Parrish, it's not about any of us, it's about what God means to do; it's about what God wants to do for us, and that's where it comes to seeking Him.

Parrish talked about the woman at the well. He talked about perceptions, and I probably won't do his whole message justice, but, how Jesus put Himself in that spot. The disciples saw one thing; the woman saw another, and Jesus said, “Now, this is what I've got.” Not, “This what your law says,” “This is what your tradition says,” “This is what your interpretation of the Law says,” “This is what, how you made your law to be says,” but, “This is what I have for you.”

Bow your heads for prayer with me. God Almighty, I just ask right now that You would bring all things to remembrance, that You would show me the things that You would have me to speak. Let me be out of the way. Let Your word speak this morning, let Your Spirit have its will. God, let us receive, hear, and understand what You have for each person here. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I really enjoyed hearing Chris, last week, also asking, "What do you pray for? What did you get?" And those are blessings. And, Chris, you shared yours first. You prayed for good weather; God didn't give you that good weather. Sometimes we don't get what we ask for. Jesse and Tina shared how her hand was healed. How we'd asked for—we prayed for her hand. And she told Jesse, "Oh, it doesn't hurt anymore. Bob talked about his thumb, and it happened—over thirty years ago? **Bob:** "1988." Doctors came in, and said, "We're going to cut your thumb off." God said, "No, you're not." They found his thumb was healthy and alive, and they didn't have to take it off, even when the doctors said, "It's dead; we're going to take it off." It's important that we not forget what we ask for. **Bob:** "He wrote on the charts, 'Miracle from above!'" That's awesome. So, it's important that we remember these things. That's why we have these two books in the back; one for our prayer requests, and one for our victories. It's good to remember those. We can't lose sight of that.

So, we're talking about asking God. Asking; the process of learning to ask God. So, what do I have to do to hear from God? Going through life, sometimes it's like, "Well, what do I need to do?" Or, "What do I have to do? I pray, and sometimes don't I feel like God hears me." We ask the question, "Does God hear my prayer? Does he even hear me? Does He want me to ask this? How do I know if God heard?" And, I submit, it's about faith; it's about our faith in God. I'm going to go through some Scriptures, and we're going to talk about some things that involve our faith, and some things that God looks at. What does God hear? What properties of a person, of a human, of what we do, does God look for to hear us? ##7:07##

Parrish brought up the woman at the well. It's kind of interesting; the woman at the well, Jesus put Himself there, in her way. She came up to Jesus; she had no idea why this man is sitting on the well. No idea whatsoever. All she knew was, she came to get water, and Jesus is there in her way. And Jesus is talking about something that she's never heard of before. And, sometimes, in our lives, we wonder, you know, we go through life, and God shows us things. God puts Himself in our way. God puts Himself in a place where we hear Him. God shows us things, even when we're not seeking. The woman wasn't going to the well to seek Jesus; she was not looking for living water. That's what Jesus had for her, but that's not what she went there for. She went to get physical water out of the well to meet a physical need. Sometimes that's what we're about; we're about finding out our physical needs, going out to meet—we're going to work, we're going to the grocery store, we're working out, we've got to exercise, we've got to sit down and eat; all the things that we have to do in our lives that are important to our flesh. And, as we're about those things, sometimes, God puts Himself in the way.

Sometimes, we have to get through our perceptions of what God's presenting us with, sometimes. Sometimes we have to get through, just as she did, "Well, I've been taught that this is where we worship. We've been taught this way. This is what our fathers taught us." But Jesus said something totally different. The Father seeks those who worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. So, that's a big piece on God giving us things. Sometimes God puts things in our path that we're not looking for. Sometimes we're looking, but we don't necessarily know what we're looking for. Sometimes we're seeking God, and, when we go to pray—have you ever gone, and you kneel down, and you say, "God, I don't even know what to pray about; I don't even know what to ask for?"

John 3:1-7 *There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith*

unto him, *How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*

When Nicodemus came to Him, he didn't ask for that. He didn't say, "How can I be saved?" He didn't ask, "What do I need to do?" He just said, "Jesus, I know that You have power," basically. He came to Him, and said, "No man can do these things except God be with him." That's all he did. "God, all I know is that there's no power but You," and that's when Jesus told him what he needed to hear. Sometimes, you know, we think of all these great things to ask, and sometimes we just come submit ourselves. Not making light of asking; there are times for that, too. We don't get things if we don't ask for them. But, sometimes, it's just being humble, and surrendering to a higher power, to Jesus, to our God. Surrendering to Him, and saying, "God, here I am." Just, "Here I am," because, sometimes that's all we've got.

Sometimes we wonder, "Does God even hear me?" Because, sometimes Satan wants to throw that at us, and there's a little Scripture in Isaiah, and it says:

Isaiah 59:1 *Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy that it cannot hear:*

I had to kind of argue with God about this second verse, because I didn't want to put it in here, but God impressed upon me, "Read that one, too."

Isaiah 59:2 *But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

I'll make it personal; I'll say it this way: "My iniquities have separated between me and my God, and my sins have hid His face from me, that He will not hear." Sometimes God wants to move something out of the way. Like I said, I didn't want to put that in there. I didn't want to do that, but God impressed me to put that in, because that's something we need to know. God is faithful, God is here, God hears us, He hears everything, but, where am I? Where's my heart? Where's my faithfulness? So, what if we're not hearing from God?

I want to read from Matthew 6. If you have your Bibles, you can turn to it. We're familiar with it; it's the Lord's Prayer. We get several things that we take out of this whole chapter. We get a chunk in the beginning that talks about do not your alms before men (Matthew 6:1-4). And, in the second part, it talks about when you pray, don't be as the hypocrites, that love to stand and pray in the synagogues (Matthew 6:5-6), and we break these out in separate pieces sometimes, and fail to realize those are part of one long passage, where Jesus warns us, as far as taking our alms, doing our offerings, doing things before God, doing the things that we do before God to help others, to give to others. Do I make a show of myself when I help somebody out, whether it's to take somebody to dinner, or buy someone some food, do I help someone, do I put money in the box; whatever it is, am I making a show of it, or am I just doing it just because that's what God wants me to do? I know we're talking about hearing from God, and listening and praying, but that's all part of this passage. The next chunk says:

Matthew 6:5-6 *And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.*

Sometimes it's taking that time in that prayer closet. Taking out time to be before God, because, there's a place for praying here in the pulpit. There's a place for praying in a group, because there's prayers that minister to people. But, when I'm seeking for God, God wants to hear from me, and, even more important, God wants me to hear from Him. If I don't take time to shut out the world; if I don't take time to go someplace where it's just me, if I don't take that time... we make time for people. We make time to spend with our families, our spouses, our children, grandchildren... We make time to spend with them. I have four grandchildren. If I don't make time to spend with them, their lives are going to pass me by. If I don't take time to do things with them—not just go and visit them, no, go and do things. Listen to them, not just tell them things, because we get with our kids and grandkids, and nieces and nephews, and we want to teach them things, and that's part of our role as adults, but, sometimes we have to get to know them. We have to learn from them, and we don't get that if we don't take the time to listen. Even more importantly, if we don't take the time to listen to God, to be in that prayer closet, how can I say that I've heard from God if I haven't even taken the time to listen? Yeah, throughout the day, pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17); I'm going to pray. Sometimes there's things I say, "God, help me with this," but that's a different part of my communication with God. But, there's times I have to take out... But then we get to the Lord's Prayer. And Jesus said:

Matthew 6:9 *After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*

Sometimes we've got to stop and pay reverence to God. We've got to put the world out and say, "Hallowed be Thy name." We have to say, "Blessed be Your name." Take the time to just say, "You're number One, and I'm just going to be here."

And the next verse says:

Matthew 6:10 *Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*

Sometimes when we enter that closet to pray, enter that quiet place, take time in our living room, wherever it is, it's about the heart, Thy will be done. And I know that seems obvious, but, sometimes we pray something, we say, "God, I want this," and move on, and we wonder why we don't get the answer. Or, God answered it, and we're asking for something that God didn't want us to have. Maybe God wants to bless us in that area, but wants to do it in a different way, or God wants to show us something, or God wants to do something for us. But the attitude, the heart—humility—has to be one of, Thy will be done.

But it says:

Matthew 6:11 *Give us this day our daily bread.*

He didn't say, "Give me a pizza." It said, "Give us this day our daily bread." God, give me what I need for this day. Sometimes I have to humble myself, you know, when I think, "I need this," or "I want that." I need a new car," "I need to fix my house," "God, give me what I need." God said He'd be faithful to us. There's plenty of teachings that say, "Seek ye first..." and I want to get to that Scripture a little later, because God will take care of us when we put Him first.

What does God like? What does God see in us? We know what we see in people sometimes. Sometimes we have to look around and see things in people in a different light sometimes. We have to stop and look at people and take the time to get to know them. What does God see in us?

Isaiah 66:1-2 *Thus saith the LORD, The Heaven is my throne, and the earth is My footstool: where is the house that ye build unto Me? and where is the place of My rest? For all those things hath Mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at My word.*

Sometimes to hear from God takes a surrender. I don't like to hear that sometimes, because I don't like to surrender. I have pieces of me that I like; I have ways that I do things that I think are right, and, you know, I don't want to surrender them. But, I have to surrender to God.

Moving to Matthew chapter 5. We call these the Beatitudes. I just want to highlight these, because these are things that Jesus is speaking and teaching, and He says, "Blessed are..."

Matthew 5:3-11 *Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.*

Blessed are all those things. Those aren't things that are natural to most people. Those are things we've got to work at sometimes. I'll speak for me, sometimes I do. But, God values those things. We're talking about hearing from God. We're talking about making ourselves in a place to be able to come before God. Because, I've learned that there are times when I see needs; I want to pray for other people, and I go before God, and God pricks my heart and says, "Okay, where's your time with me?" Where have I surrendered? And that's a piece I have to have first, before anything else.

Let's turn to James chapter one. Sometimes we're asking for wisdom, and this is a Scripture that's talking specifically about asking for wisdom, and how to get that wisdom:

James 1:5-7 *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*

Once again, God wants us to be single-minded. He wants our faith to be in Him. If I've got one foot in the world, that's not faith. Because, if I'm seeking God for something—and this is a mistake we make sometimes as human beings—go out and get things on our own. If I'm out in the world, trying to get the things that I think I need, and asking God for it at the same time, where's my faith in God? I've got one foot in and one foot out; I'm double-minded. And that Scripture's pretty plain, it says, "Let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways. And that's something we've got to look at day-to-day. I'm not putting it on any person, "You're that! You're this!" Nah. For me, that's a daily thing. Keeping my focus where it needs to be, because, I have a job; I'm out and about, doing things, and God created us as pretty amazing human beings. He gave us these bodies, these minds that have a lot of capability. We can get a lot of things done. I can do a lot of things on my own; yeah, God gave me that ability, but, just because God gave me the ability, doesn't mean He wants me to. I'm getting ahead of myself here.

Talking about faith. We look at several places where God healed people. And, these are just for reference, so that you can look them up: In Luke 7, The woman who anointed the feet of Jesus, Jesus said, "**Thy faith hath saved thee.**" (Luke 7:3-50) The woman with the issue of blood. She pressed through

the crowd. She said to herself, "If I can only touch the hem of His garment." And at what point in that story did she get healed? When she touched the hem of His garment. It wasn't when Jesus turned around and spoke to her, it wasn't the point when Jesus did anything; it was her faith. And Jesus turned around in the middle of this crowd and said, "Who touched me?" And the disciples, I'm sure, had to look at Him like He was crazy, but the woman said, "It was I." And Jesus said unto her, "Thy faith hath made thee whole." (Luke 8:43-48) In Luke 18, another reference, a man asked for his sight. Jesus said, "Thy faith hath saved thee." (Luke 18:35-43) And I'm going to read this one in Mark chapter nine:

Mark 9:17-24 *And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto Thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not. He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto Me. And they brought him unto Him: and when he saw Him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. And He asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if Thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief.*

Let's take this from the back side: When the father said, "I believe, help thou mine unbelief." Sometimes God wants to do things, and it's up to our belief. Let me roll it back to the disciples. Because the disciples came to Him and said, "What gives? Why couldn't we do this, God?" He said, "Howbeit, this kind cometh not out but by prayer and fasting." Sometime there's prayer and fasting. We want to get things done, sometimes, there are things that we need to ask for. And we've heard the question asked, "Why'd you quit?" Sometimes it's, we don't get the answer right away. The disciples didn't get it right away; they didn't get it at all. They weren't prepared; they weren't ready to receive what God had in that moment. They weren't ready for that healing. Jesus said, "This kind comes out by prayer and fasting." That, sometimes, is a big piece of why we don't get things. Sometimes God wants to show us things, and fasting is a big piece of that. Sometimes we have to submit ourselves in the fast, putting aside our flesh, putting aside the things that our bodies think they need, and presenting ourselves to God, in that time, to get the answer God has for us. Sometimes I think we'll be amazed. Sometimes, when I've taken that time, and whatever else I've needed to do, or I've taken that time, then God shows me more than I could have ever asked for. Prayer and fasting.

I said I was getting ahead of myself. We talked about sometimes we have things that I want to get. I think it's mine to get it, I should get it, I've got every right to get it, I don't even bother, "God, I've got this." And it seems right. Maybe sometimes I don't think about it. Sometimes it's just like, "Okay, I'm going to go do this." And sometimes I forget things that I've been told. I'd like to look at an example in Exodus sixteen. Moses. God, through Moses, showed them, "Okay, I'm going to give you manna." They complained that they didn't have anything to eat, the Children of Israel, and God gave them manna. God told Moses, "Tell the people, take what you need for today, no more. That's what they were told to do. Before the Sabbath, you can gather enough for the next day. So, what did the people do? "Get a little extra, here, I want some..." You know. Maybe, "I don't trust You. I'll get extra." And it didn't exactly what was going to happen: It rotted, got worms, it stank. It was worthless. They had kept something that God had said not to do; they did something that God said not to do, and it rotted. It was eaten by worms. Sometimes we may not see things that dramatic, but, I know sometimes we do things that God had said, "Don't do that." A little Spirit over here, "Don't do that." Sometimes God will tell us in our sleep, in a dream, prick in our heart, "Don't do that," and we do it anyway. And then we wonder why we're in the mess we're in. Then we fall into another trap sometimes. When I say this, I'm going to be careful,

because I believe that Satan fights against us. There's no doubt in my mind. But, sometimes, when we go and do things we shouldn't do, "Aw, man, the devil's fighting me on that one." No! Well, he did fight you on it, but you lost the battle long before the piece of manna rotted. You lost the battle when you went and got it and stuck it in your tent and kept overnight. You lost it when God said, "Don't go buy that; you don't need that right now. Let me bless you." When God says, "Maybe your attitude's not right. Don't talk to that person right now." Or he says, "Go talk to that person." When we don't do what we're supposed to do, or do what we're not supposed to... When we go in to, you know, dive into the situation and it just blows up, and we wonder what happened. God is faithful to take care of us, but sometimes we've got to listen.

I know this isn't all exciting and happy right now, but, his is part of the process of asking God. This is part of the process of receiving things from God. I know who I'm talking to in this crowd. I know a lot of you are warriors that I've worked with for a long time, and I'm proud to be here. But, I know, sometimes, we need to be reminded. I need to be reminded. I was studying for this, this is something I wished I'd studied on more before I started doing this for a sermon, because God showed me so much. You know, and this is one of the things that I need to do, and we've got a long way to go as a ministry. God wants to do things; God wants to bless us.

So, am I satisfied with what God gave me? I'm not going to read all of it, but it's a story out of Second Samuel. King David, he finds himself out on the roof. He finds himself looking down; a woman taking a bath. Okay, he probably knew that was what he was going to find when he went up there. But then he made a bigger mistake; he sent for her. And, he sleeps with her, and she's pregnant. He's got to do something about it. He's already made a mess. So, her husband's out in battle, he (David) calls to have him (Uriah) come in, hoping that they can be together, and she can claim the child is his, and they can move on. That doesn't happen. The man is so faithful, he won't even go into the house with his wife. He sleep on the doorstep. He's faithful to what he's supposed to be doing, because he knows he's not in battle where he belongs. So David makes another choice. He sends him (Uriah) back into battle in a place where he (David) knows he's (Uriah's) going to be killed. So, he's already messed all that up, and now the prophet, Nathan, comes to him. He tells him a story. He tells him about a rich man who's got lots of flocks, and one poor man who has one lamb. And the rich man has someone come into town, and the rich man takes the poor man's one lamb, instead of out of the abundance of his flock, and takes it to feed this visitor from out of town. And, as the prophet tells this story to David, David says, "That man should die." Paraphrasing here, a little bit. But he's mad; he's upset. This isn't right, this shouldn't happen. I'm going to read from the Scripture word-for-word:

2 Samuel 12:7-9 *And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things. Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.*

So, the point is, he wasn't satisfied. God delivered many things into his hands. Now, we may not be kings, we may not be over a palace, but He says we're a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9). He's made us heirs of His kingdom. He's faithful to give us the things that we need. Don't get me wrong, it's good to ask for things, but we have to be satisfied with what he gives us. It isn't to say we can't ask, but we don't want to go get things out of our own lust. To bring it round, let me read from James chapter four:

James 4:1-4 *From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God?...*

Now it's interesting that all those things are kind of sandwiched in together. We're talking about fightings and wars, and lusting to have, and receiving not because you ask not, and then he goes into adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that friendship of the world is enmity with God? We like to pull out that one little piece that says you have not because you ask not, but that's all together.

James 4:4-7 *... know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But He giveth more grace. Wherefore He saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

I know that sounds like a harsh judgment in the beginning of that Scripture, but, at the end of that is something to take joy in. "The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But He giveth more grace. Wherefore He saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." That's the key, right there. And, in verse seven: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Sometimes the key to having what we want, I mean, you look at rich people in the world, they've got a lot of stuff, but how many of them are truly happy. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

And, as I'm wrapping up; we're going to have communion. I want to read one final passage, back in Matthew six. God is faithful. I could make this sound like a downer, but I'm excited, because God's faithful to give us what we need. I want to share that, I don't think I'm anybody, I don't want to tout myself above anyone else, but, I have to share some things that God blessed me with. I'll start just from when I was in high school. I knew that God put me on a path to be able to join the military. I joined the military; I served ten years, and I ended up right in the very beginning of my military journey, I was able to find this ministry, and, even more than that, found God's truth. Because I had sought God. I knew I needed to be closer to God; I knew I needed something, and I found it. God put me where I needed to be right after that. I mean, within two months of leaving home, I found another home. Another home where I found the Truth preached. A home where I found people that wanted to encourage me, people that wanted to lift me up, people that weren't going to cut me any slack. I found a ministry church home. I served ten years on active duty. I prayed for a wife, and, you know what? I asked for some very specific things in a wife and God gave me every single one of them. And, in jobs, I came off of active duty, actually, I was still on active duty, I was looking for a job, and I made a phone call. Up in the schoolhouse where I was teaching, I had put in my resume, I get a phone call, and I practically got hired over the phone, without even having an interview. I left, over a three day week-end after my ten years active duty, and walked in the door—I walked out in a uniform, and walked back in in a suit and tie, teaching for San Diego City College. I don't have a degree. I don't have anything but the military experience, and I was hired that quick. God blessed me. I don't ever want to put myself over anyone who's had job problems, but I have to give glory to what God gave me. And I reaped that. I stayed in the reserves, and I wound up getting recalled; I wound up in Spain for a year. I'd been married just a little over a year when I had to sit down next to my wife and say, "I'm leaving for a year." But, as that year went by, I found out that the job I was

working were cutting people by seniority. By the time I got back, they were cutting people by seniority—actually, about half-way through the tour, they were cutting people by seniority well above me, so I would have lost my job had I have been there. So God was taking care of me. I came back, walked pretty much into another job; God blessed, all the way, straight through. Those are things that God has blessed me with. Now, not everyone has the same experience, but we all have things that God has blessed us with, and we have to be quick to give God the glory. I'm going to keep mentioning that book back there, because when we get victories—when we put a prayer request in the one book, let's be sure we put the victory in the other book. I'm going to say that over and over again, because we want to give God the glory for that.

And, I said I was going to read in Matthew chapter six; and this is in that same text, right after Jesus tells us how to pray. It's good to read all of chapter six, I like this stuff, where it talks about lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven...

Matthew 6:25-34 *Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.*

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." I want to highlight that. It's good to go back and read that whole chapter, because all the pieces in there they all fit together. Sometimes we teach and preach on them separate, but they all fit together. Where's your heart? Where's my heart? Where's my understanding? Am I being humble towards God? As the communion team comes, we're going to encourage, let that be the thought as we go into the week. Are we surrendering to God? And we talk about, what is this communion all about, as we take the body and the blood of Christ? As we remember the sacrifice. I don't want to take long, but, God wants us to be humble. God wants us to surrender to Him.