

# Praying Battle Prayers

## I. Preamble & Prayer

### A. Second Readings

- We are pleased to call for a motion today to accept Jose' and Rosita Argumedo into membership here at Valley (Motion, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Welcome to the family)
- Welcome Jose' and Rosita!
- Also, we blessed to have two new representatives to serve on the MSACA Board—Wydette Morales and Joanna Bravo (Motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> , raise your right hand to indicate your support)
- Thank you Wydette & Joanna!

### B. Whisper a Prayer

- ❖ Whisper a prayer in the morning
- ❖ Whisper a prayer at noon
- ❖ Whisper a prayer in the evening
- ❖ To keep your heart in tune
- ❖ God answers prayer in the morning
- ❖ God answers prayer at noon
- ❖ God answers prayer in the evening
- ❖ So keep your heart in tune
- ❖ Jesus may come in the morning
- ❖ Jesus may come at noon
- ❖ Jesus may come in the evening
- ❖ So keep your heart in tune

### C. Story – Silent Prayer

- ❖ A dad took his small son with him to town one day to run some errands
- ❖ When lunch time arrived, the two of them went to a familiar diner for a sandwich
- ❖ The father sat down on one of the stools at the counter and lifted his boy up to the seat beside him
- ❖ They order lunch and when the food was brought, the father said, “Son, we’ll just have a silent prayer.”
- ❖ Dad got through praying first and waited for the boy to finish his prayer
- ❖ But the little guy just sat with his head bowed for an unusually long time

- ❖ When he finally looked up, his father asked him, “What in the world were you praying about all that time?”
  - ❖ With the innocence and honesty of a child, he replied, “How do I know? It was a silent prayer.”
- D. Prayer** – Dear Lord Jesus, a battle is being waged all around us, voices are loud, deafening, to the point that hearing Your voice and You hearing ours almost seems a futile attempt anymore. But “No!” a thousand “No’s!” Praying Battle Prayers is what it’s all about in knowing victory in this late hour of our earth’s history. So, would You bend Your eye down to see us, Your ear to hear us, Your heart to beat in rhythm with ours—cause we ask this in Jesus’ name, AMEN!

## II. Message

### A. Jesus Prays Alone

- ❖ If ever there was praying battle prayers
- ❖ Jesus did so on the night He would be betrayed
- ❖ He had said to his disciples, “All of you shall be offended because of Me this night.”
- ❖ Embarrassed by Jesus! Offended because of Him!
- ❖ How could this be?
- ❖ Because never before had Jesus been taken, bound, arrested, carted off like a brazen criminal—before that night
- ❖ Stalwart, steady, strong Jesus...suddenly becomes none of the above!
- ❖ What is happening?
- ❖ Had they not followed Him because He knew so keenly where He was going?
- ❖ What now? What now had brought on this change?
- ❖ If, if the disciples had prayed battle prayers with Jesus in Gethsemane, they would have known
- ❖ They could have prayed battle prayers with Him themselves—though from a distance
- ❖ TEXT: Mark 14:36 NLT

*“Abba, Father,” he cried out, “Everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”*

- ❖ Mark records only the Cliff Notes of Jesus’ prayers
- ❖ That’s all Peter could come up with...he and the others had eye lids that they could not keep up
- ❖ A stupor hung over them all—how quickly the bread and wine lessons were tucked away under a trusting to themselves
- ❖ Praying battle prayers are just that—they are prayed at the point of the conflict itself
- ❖ The disciples would look back and think, why didn’t we too pray with Him in the garden?

- ❖ There was where the battle was waged, the conflict heated, hot and heavy!
- ❖ Week of Prayer—Right here in this spot, this will become the Garden, this area right here beginning next Sabbath, November 10 through Sabbath, November 17.

### **B. David and his prayer pouch**

- ❖ I would like to pick up where we left off with the children’s story—the prayer pouch
- ❖ Hey children, do you remember why David prayed over the stones
- ❖ Answer: They would need to hit their mark and the mark was a moving target
- ❖ Ask a football or soccer player, “Does hitting the other players hands or toe in stride become the objective of getting into the end zone or in the net with your shot on goal?”
- ❖ Answer: Yes
- ❖ Let’s go forward to that day when David is older and he has heard Goliath defy the God of Heaven and His people
- ❖ King Saul hears of David’s comments of pure outrage and defiant action *for* God and His people
- ❖ TEXT: 1 Samuel 17:26b NLT

*“...Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?”*

- ❖ David has seen Goliath, heard Goliath, witnessed the armies of Israel fleeing at Goliath’s ranting and raging
- ❖ And yet he says these words
- ❖ They are words from the mouth of one who has often prayed battle prayers
- ❖ David is quickly brought to King Saul and he says
- ❖ TEXT: 1 Samuel 17:32 NLT

*“Don’t worry about this Philistine,” David told Saul. “I’ll go fight him!”*

- ❖ Saul’s response? It is found in 1 Samuel 17:33—“Don’t be ridiculous! There’s no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win! You’re only a boy, and he’s been a man of war since his youth.”
- ❖ David, I think you have this wrong, way wrong!
- ❖ Let’s read David’s reply in verses 34 and 35—

*“David persisted. “I have been taking care of my father’s sheep and goats,” he said. “When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, I go after it...”*

- ❖ How can we be like David and go towards danger instead of running from it?
- ❖ There are some important things about praying battle prayers we must learn
- ❖ Things that David learned while tending his father’s sheep

### **C. Battle lines are drawn at the sheepfold**

- ❖ First, David understood there was going to be a battle and accepted it
- ❖ Jesus would say— in John 10:2,1 NLT

*“The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd...anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must sure be a thief and a robber!”*

- ❖ Verse 10 of John 10—“The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is give them a rich and satisfying life.”
- ❖ Which side of the battle are we on?
- ❖ There’s no use wishing the battle didn’t exist—it’s a life and death struggle
- ❖ Praying Battle Prayers as Spurgeon so wisely noted—“sweep the battlefield, slay the enemy and bury the bones.”
- ❖ Those words, “Father, into Your hands do I commit my spirit.” Is the ultimate battle prayer
- ❖ Jesus died so you and I might live

#### **D. My machete lesson**

- ❖ I not only brought a prayer pouch with me today, but also a machete
- ❖ That’s right—since we’re talking about praying battle prayers, I thought a machete might get our attention
- ❖ A machete is a lethal weapon, just ask those tribes people of Africa
- ❖ But it’s most productive and positive purpose is helping to blaze a trail not yet made in the bush of any continent
- ❖ Yet, to be effective, you need to pay attention to some important things—

##### **a. Always keep the blade sharpened—it works optimally when this is done**

1. Praying battle prayers are the same way
2. Text: Psalm 17:1 NLT READ

*“O Lord, hear my plea for justice. Listen to my cry for help. Pay attention to my prayer, for it comes from honest lips.”*

3. Praying is turning to the Lord first and always

##### **b. The blade can cut anything—you don’t want it cutting you**

1. Praying battle prayers are prayed long before, during and after the conflict
2. TEXT: Psalm 17:2,3 NLT READ

*“Declare me innocent, for you see those who do right. You have tested my thoughts and examined my heart in the night. You have scrutinized me and found nothing wrong. I am determined not to sin in what I say.”*

3. When preparing this prop—sharpening it, I paid very close attention...why?

4. Because the blade is intended to cut away the obstacles in the way, the enemy
5. The Holy Spirit is intended to cut us and clear away the obstacles in you and me
6. This is why David could say to King Saul as he laid Saul's armor down and picked up his sling and could we say, prayer pouch?
7. Thus he could say, "Don't worry..."

**c. Keep using the machete and have it close at hand at all times**

1. There's a temptation to let down one's guard
2. To think the enemy is taking a nap, and we can go easy
3. TEXT: Psalm 17:4 NLT READ

*"I have followed your commands, which keep me from following cruel and evil people. My steps have stayed on your path; I have not wavered from following you."*

4. Waver and soon you'll cave in
5. Stay vigilant with God's Word, God's commands
6. Like a two-edged sword, it will cut both ways, dividing asunder the bad and evil seeking to take us down

**III. Application**

**A. Ivan's prayer**

- ❖ A young man named Ivan was trying to endure the horrors of a Soviet prison camp
- ❖ One day he was praying with his eyes closed when a fellow prisoner notices him and says with ridicule —  

"Prayers won't help you get out of here any faster."
- ❖ Opening his eyes Ivan answered, "I do not pray to get out of prison but to do the will of God."

**B. Which voice are you hearing?**

- ❖ The moment you wake up each morning, all your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals
- ❖ And the first job each morning consists in shoving it all back
- ❖ In listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other, larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in.

**C. David's Battle Prayer – Psalm 17**

- ❖ David's Psalm, Psalm 17 is Praying Battle Prayers
- ❖ Let's return to it for just a moment longer as we take them in—
- ❖ TEXT: Psalm 17 READ

6 – “I am praying to you because I know you will answer, O God. Bend down and listen as I pray.

7 – “Show me your unfailing love in wonderful ways. By your mighty power you rescue those who seek refuge from their enemies.”

8 – “Guard me as you would guard your eyes. Hide me in the shadow of your wings.”

9(12) – “Protect me from wicked people who attack me, from murderous enemies who attack me. (They are like hungry lions, eager to tear me apart—like young lions hiding in ambush)”

13 – “Arise, O Lord! Stand against them, bring them to their knees! Rescue me from the wicked with your sword!

14 – “By the power of your hand, O Lord, destroy those who look to this world for their reward. But satisfy the hunger of your treasured ones.

15 – “Because I am righteous, I will see you. When I awake, I will see you face to face and be satisfied.”

**IV. Prayer** – Lord Jesus, the battle is on, he who seeks to steal, kill and destroys is lurking, seeking whom he can devour. But the Lion of the tribe of Judah is alert to his schemes and is ready and able to silence his voice and plans. Jesus is calling you, He is calling me to pray battle prayers—through which we remove ourselves and exalt Him. (Who here today would like to answer Jesus’ call? I invite you to stand wherever you are..) Lord, like David we are but clay—would you, the Potter, make of us the hard stuff, that though they kill body, they cannot kill or destroy the soul? We thank you, we claim you as our sure defense, our righteousness. AMEN!