



# PRAYER FORCE

The WAR is DECIDED in the HEAVENS

## Prayer Focus

July 11-17, 2022

### Hard Words

#### **The Beatitudes, Luke 6:20-49 (Amplified)**

*<sup>20</sup> And looking toward His disciples, He began speaking: "Blessed [spiritually prosperous, happy, to be admired] are you who are poor [in spirit, those devoid of spiritual arrogance, those who regard themselves as insignificant], for the kingdom of God is yours [both now and forever]. <sup>21</sup> Blessed [joyful, nourished by God's goodness] are you who hunger now [for righteousness, actively seeking right standing with God], for you will be [completely] satisfied. Blessed [forgiven, refreshed by God's grace] are you who weep now [over your sins and repent], for you will laugh [when the burden of sin is lifted]. <sup>22</sup> Blessed [morally courageous and spiritually alive with life-joy in God's goodness] are you when people hate you, and exclude you [from their fellowship], and insult you, and scorn your name as evil because of [your association with] the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup> Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for your reward in heaven is great [absolutely inexhaustible]; for their fathers used to treat the prophets in the same way.*

*<sup>24</sup> But woe (judgment is coming) to you who are rich [and place your faith in possessions while remaining spiritually impoverished], for you are [already] receiving your comfort in full [and there is nothing left to be awarded to you]. <sup>25</sup> Woe to you who are well-fed (gorged, satiated) now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now [enjoying a life of self-indulgence], for you will mourn and weep [and deeply long for God]. <sup>26</sup> Woe to you when all the people speak well of you and praise you, for their fathers used to treat the false prophets in the same way.*

<sup>27</sup> "But I say to you who hear [Me and pay attention to My words]: Love [that is, unselfishly seek the best or higher good for] your enemies, [make it a practice to] do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless and show kindness to those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> Whoever strikes you on the cheek, offer him the other one also [simply ignore insignificant insults or losses and do not bother to retaliate—maintain your dignity]. Whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks of you. Whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back. <sup>31</sup> Treat others the same way you want them to treat you. <sup>32</sup> If you [only] love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend [money] to those from whom you expect to receive [it back], what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners expecting to receive back the same amount. <sup>35</sup> But love [that is, unselfishly seek the best or higher good for] your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; for your reward will be great (rich, abundant), and you will be sons of the Most High; because He Himself is kind and gracious and good to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful (responsive, compassionate, tender) just as your [heavenly] Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup> "Do not judge [others self-righteously], and you will not be judged; do not condemn [others when you are guilty and unrepentant], and you will not be condemned [for your hypocrisy]; pardon [others when they truly repent and change], and you will be pardoned [when you truly repent and change]. <sup>38</sup> Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over [with no space left for more]. For with the standard of measurement you use [when you do good to others], it will be measured to you in return."

<sup>39</sup> He also told them a parable: "Can a blind man guide [another] blind man? Will they not both fall into a hole in the ground? <sup>40</sup> A student is not superior to his teacher; but everyone, after he has been completely trained, will be like his teacher. <sup>41</sup> Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice or consider the log that is in your own eye? <sup>42</sup> How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, allow me to take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite (play actor, pretender), first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye. <sup>43</sup> For there is no good tree which produces bad fruit, nor, on the other hand, a bad tree which produces good fruit. <sup>44</sup> For each tree is known and identified by its own fruit. For figs are not picked from thorn bushes, nor is a cluster of grapes picked from a briar bush. <sup>45</sup> The [intrinsicly] good man produces what is good and honorable and moral out of the good treasure [stored] in his heart; and the [intrinsicly] evil man produces what is wicked and depraved out of the evil [in his heart]; for his mouth speaks from the overflow of his heart.

## **A Secure Foundation**

*<sup>46</sup> "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not practice what I tell you? <sup>47</sup> Everyone who comes to Me and listens to My words and obeys them, I will show you whom he is like: <sup>48</sup> he is like a [far-sighted, practical, and sensible] man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and yet could not shake it, because it had been securely built and founded on the rock. <sup>49</sup> But the one who has [merely] heard and has not practiced [what I say], is like a [foolish] man who built a house on the ground without any foundation, and the torrent burst against it; and it immediately collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great."*

The words of our Lord are to be heeded. The woes that He spoke in the above passage in verses 24-26 really caught my attention this week. We must never forget - *"Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."* Colossians 3:2 We are assured that when we 1) come to Jesus, 2) listen to His word and 3) obey it, we are laying a deep and firm foundation that cannot be shaken. *Selah*

- Melody Divine

### **Pray**

- Give thanks that the Lord gives us strength through the Holy Spirit to hear His word and power to obey it. See John 6:44-45
- Meditate on these words of Jesus.

### **Events**

[Prayer Force Website: http://www.prayerforce.live/](http://www.prayerforce.live/)

[Prayer Force Room Sign-Up](#)

Prayer Force Equipping Hour – Every other Tuesday at 1:00pm, Pacific