

Sermon Title: Solomon's Prayer of Dedication

Written: September 24, 2016

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Vessel: Russ LaFlamme

Scripture Reference: 2 Chronicles 6:12-17

Thesis: **When Solomon had completed the temple of God he offered this prayer of dedication;**

Purpose: **We will see God's answer to sincere prayer.**

Key Word: "God's Faithfulness"

Key Points: #1 Prayer Posture

#2 Prayer Praises

#3 Prayer Petitions

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## I) Introduction:

Scripture Reading is: 2 Chronicles 6:12-17

### A) The Setting:

#### 1) **How is your prayer life?**

- (a) Would you say your prayers are effective?
- (b) Do you feel you connect with the Living Lord?
- (c) Or do you feel more like your prayers are lost in space?

#### 2) **Before my break giving you a chance to practice praying we spent the Summer studying the Lord's Prayer.**

- (a) I would like for us to spend a couple more weeks on the topic of prayer.
- (b) This week we will look at Solomon's prayer of Dedication.

#### 3) **Solomon just completed the task of building the first Temple.**

- (a) Up to now God's meeting place had been in the tabernacle
- (b) A movable structure that went where the Israelites traveled in the wilderness.

#### 4) **Now they were a nation with a capital in Jerusalem.**

- (a) David wanted to build a house for God; but was told it was not for him to do.
- (b) But God said that his son could build a temple.
- (c) David spent many years preparing for the temple to be built amassing many of the material for the project.
- (d) David reasoned, Why should he live in a palace and leave God in a tent.

#### 5) **The structure was made out of stone and cypress wood brought in from Lebanon.**

- (a) Built in tiers leading up the back of the structure to a height of 180 feet.
- (b) Flat roofs and lined with wood, decorated with carvings of **cherubim, palms, garlands and opening flowers** with everything all covered in a thin layer of gold.
- (c) With the court yards and structure the entire area would have taken up at least 600' by 300'.
- (d) That is an area big enough to lay in 4 football fields.
- (e) Surely a massive, impressive, structure on top of Mount Mariah visible from the entire area.

#### 6) **Upon completion it was now time to dedicate the temple to God.**

- (a) Solomon had a platform constructed in the middle of the courtyard 7.5' by 7.5' and 4.5' in height upon which he could stand and been seen by those present.
- (b) He makes his way to the platform with all eyes upon their young king.

#### 7) **We pick up our story here with our scripture reading for today in 2 Chronicles 6:12-17.**

### B) *Sermon Prayer*

### C) (The Hook)

#### 1) **Do you have prayer power?**

- (a) I mean do you believe that your prayers will be answered?
- (b) **Let me give you an ILLUSTRATION; there was a pastor who had a parrot.**

- (i) All the parrot would say was, "Let's pray, let's pray."
  - (ii) The pastor tried to teach him to say other things but to no avail.
  - (iii) He learned that one of his deacons had a parrot that would only say, "Let's kiss. Let's kiss."
  - (iv) So the pastor decided to invite the deacon and his parrot over to his house.
  - (v) When the deacon arrived they put the parrots into the same cage to see what would happen.
  - (vi) The deacon's parrot said, "Let's kiss, let's kiss."
  - (vii) The pastor's parrot said, "Thank you, Lord. My prayers have been answered."
- (c) Now that's seeing power in prayer!
- 2) **Solomon believed in prayer power and I think we can learn several things from looking at His prayer here; Such as:**
- (a) What is the best posture for praying?
  - (b) Are there any things we need to do to prepare to pray?
  - (c) What kinds of things should we ask for in our prayers?

TS: **So, lets begin first with looking at Solomon's . . .**

II) Body: (Key Points)

A) Key Point #1: **Prayer Posture** (2 chronicles 6:12-13)

- 1) **Begins with arms raised and then drops to his knees.**
- 2) So that begs the question; What is the best posture for Prayer?
- 3) According to John MacArthur<sup>1</sup>:
- 4) There are many correct postures for prayer and no one posture is right or wrong. The Bible exhorts Christians to pray without ceasing and that necessitates various positions for prayer--no one can remain in just one position all day! But in the Bible, we can see people praying in various positions:
  - Standing (Genesis 24:12-14)
  - Lifting the hands (1 Timothy 2:8)
  - Sitting (Judges 20:26)
  - Kneeling (Mark 1:40)
  - Looking upward (John 17:1)
  - Bowing down (Exodus 34:8)
  - Placing the head between the knees (1 Kings 18:42)
  - Pounding on the breast (Luke 18:13)
  - Facing the temple (Daniel 6:10)
- 5) **Rather than external positioning, the Bible emphasizes the posture of the heart.**
  - (a) Whether you are standing, sitting, or lying down, the important thing is that your heart is bowed in submission to the lordship of Christ.
  - (b) False religion places a premium on external behavior,
  - (c) While true Christianity is concerned with the heart.
  - (d) **And true prayer is characterized by an attitude of humility before God-not the physical posture of the person praying.**

TS: **Next Solomon brings . . .**

**B) Key Point #2: Prayer Praises (2 Chronicles 6:14-20)**

- 1) **Solomon begins with praises to God:**
  - (a) No God on heaven or earth like YOU
  - (b) Keeps your covenant Promises
  - (c) Steadfast in Love with servants who walk before God with all their hearts.
- 2) **Made a promise to David to keep his descendants on the throne of Israel.**
  - (a) And now has been confirmed, kept with Solomon.
  - (b) Solomon then acknowledges that this house cannot contain God who is everywhere.
  - (c) But humbly asks that God will keep His attention on this House and the prayers of His people.

**TS: Following a posture of humility and acknowledgment of praise . . .**

**C) Key Point #3: Prayer Petitions (2 Chronicles 6:22-39)**

- 1) **In verses 22-39 Solomon now offers a series of petitions in prayer for the failings of his people be it:**
  - (a) The breaking oaths
  - (b) Sins against God
  - (c) During droughts due to the sins of the people
  - (d) During famine, plague, blight, mildew, locust, or caterpillar
  - (e) When enemies attack
  - (f) In sickness and sorrow
- 2) Whenever God's people repent and turn back to God in prayer . . . Solomon pleads for God to hear and restore.
- 3) **Even when foreigners come to this temple** who are not from this land, if they call out on the God of Israel, Solomon asks God to grant their request so that they know there is a God in heaven.
- 4) **When God's people go out to do battle with an enemy far or near** and are defeated due to sin, if they repent and pray for forgiveness; hear and grant their request.
- 5) **Solomon is calling on God's mercy for grace for imperfect people whenever they turn, confess, turn back to God and pray.**

**TS: What a prayer and now what an ending . . .**

**III) Conclusion (Life Application)**

**A) In verse 40 through 2 Chronicles 7:4 Solomon concludes his pray and we see God's response.**

- 1) **Read 2 Chronicles 6:40-7:4**
- 2) What a climatic conclusion with Solomon ending his prayer and God putting the exclamation point on it.
- 3) **Can there be any doubt of God's approval of this prayer?**
- 4) Like a bolt of lightning consuming the burnt offering and sacrifices offered;
- 5) then the Glory of the Lord filling the temple to the point that the priest had to exit.
- 6) If we read on we see that twenty-two thousand oxen were offered and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep.
- 7) All while the musician played and the celebrations continued for seven days.

**B) At the end of all this God appears to Solomon and Answers His prayer:**

- 1) Read (2 Chronicles 7:12-18)
- 2) **2 Chronicles 7:14 is often read as God's promise and while this promise was made to Solomon and Israel, it is also a principle we can rely on.**

- 3) Like the Israelites, we are all imperfect people and we all go astray from time to time; isn't it good to know that God is willing to forgive in his great Mercy and Grace to restore our relationship?
    - (a) But we must remember that it requires us to humble ourselves,
    - (b) We must continuously seek God's presence with all our hearts.
    - (c) We must be willing to give up the things of this world that pull us away from God, and we must come to God in prayer.
  - 4) It is then that we can rely on God's promise to forgive and to heal our land.
- C) **Our land certainly needs this message and needs a lot of healing.**
- 1) We must do our part to pray for our nation as Solomon prayed for his.
  - 2) We must do our part to humble ourselves and turn back to God seeking to draw near to Him.
  - 3) When we seek God with all our hearts; he will draw near to us.
  - 4) **We must also be people of the Word for we have the mind of Christ right here.**
    - (a) We need to read it, meditate on it and study it both alone and together.
    - (b) We need to pray for wisdom and as tempting as it is to just not vote; we must as good citizens do our part by participating in the election.
    - (c) By voting for people who will best represent what God tells us we should do.
    - (d) I hope and pray you will do your part as God guides you.

IV) Invitation: **Let us Pray!**

V) **Bibliography**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.gty.org/resources/questions/QA156/is-there-a-correct-posture-for-prayer>