



Part 4: Danger Zone | April 2 & 3, 2011

Main Point: The most dangerous prayer we could ever utter is: “God, use me for Your glory.”

Isaiah 48:13. My own hand laid the foundations of the earth, and My right hand spread out the heavens; when I summon them, they all stand up together. (TNIV)

Do you see how small we are, and how magnificent God is? We close our series on prayer today with the most dangerous prayer we could ever utter to God. The words are incredibly simple: “God, use me for Your glory.” But in order to pray that simple prayer with meaning and boldness in a life-changing or powerful way, we have to know the One to whom we are praying. We also need to know what type of people God uses, and how He works through them.

The book of John says that Jesus crossed over the Sea of Galilee and everywhere He went, great throngs of people followed Him, curious about what He SAID, but enthralled because of His MIRACLES. Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down, and this is where we pick up the story:

John 6:5-6. When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward Him, He said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” He asked this only to test him, for He already had in mind what He was going to do.

Philip had to know this was a trick question. They were miles from the nearest town, but he dodges the question. Notice:

John 6:7. Philip answered him, “It would take almost a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”

Consider what is happening here. Jesus asked how they would be able to pay to feed the people, knowing all along they had NO money. Even if they DID have money, the nearest city was at least 8 miles away! There was only a young boy in the crowd who had five small barley rolls and three small fish. If you were standing there with the disciples, you would be as perplexed as they were.

John 6:10-11. Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

John 6:12-13. When they had all had enough to eat, He said to His disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

Notes: _____

#1 Seeing the God who is ABLE

If we want to pray the “use me” prayer, we need to see the God BEHIND the prayer, the God who is ABLE. The story above is not so much about what Jesus did (feed a lot of people), but rather WHO Jesus is! This is the God of the universe in flesh, doing only what God can do, for everyone to see!

John 6:35b. “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty.

Do you love Jesus for who He is...the risen Savior? Do you love Him...really?

Notes: _____

#2 The people God uses

Notice who Jesus uses in the story of feeding the thousands. He uses a little boy from a poor family who has barley, the bread of the poor. He takes this inadequate offering and uses it to feed 20,000 people! Jesus takes the insufficient, and through His power, He makes it sufficient. Who does God use? You and me! We are grossly inadequate, and He makes us adequate.

God delights in our surrender. Pray that He will use you for His glory. God yearns to hear that.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29. Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things -- and the things that are not -- to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before Him.

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#3 Put everything in His hands!

The boy in our story surrendered everything he had to Jesus. He gave it all up to God and ended up with more than he could eat. God can only work with and bless what is given to Him. Jesus says: “Those who lose their life for My sake will find it.”

Pray the most dangerous prayer in the world: “God, use me for Your glory.” Pray it with conviction and with power. Pray it boldly!

Notes: _____
