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Introductory Comments

-When Thampi asked me to speak, I asked if there was a particular topic area that would benefit the assembly at this time.

-He responded that some of you are currently experiencing things that tend to be discouraging.

-Hence He suggested something encouraging.

QUESTION

-How many here have felt at least some sense of discouragement during this past year?

OVERVIEW OF LESSON

- 1. Problems of the present tend to cause discouragement.**
- 2. Anticipation of future joy will tend encourage the heart.**
- 3. Two prayers that provide Christians hope for the future.**

1. Problems of the Present Tend to Cause Discouragement.

-The children of Israel experienced this as they approached the promised land.

Numbers 21:4 -- And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way.

-Job had lost everything and had no hope or expectation of recovery.

Job 3:2-3 -- And Job spake, and said, Let the day perish wherein I was born, and the night in which it was said, There is a man child conceived.

2. Anticipating Future Joy Tends to Encourage the Heart

-Joy of Having a Baby encourages a woman who just delivered a child

John 16:21 -- A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.

2. Anticipating Future Joy Tends to Encourage the Heart

-Even the Lord anticipated future joy as He died for His people.

Hebrews 12:1-3 -- 1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;

who for the joy that was set before him

endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

3. Two Prayers Which Provide Christians Future Hope

**One of these two prayers is the Lord's
Prayer -- WHICH ONE?**

Prayer 1:-- *“Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”* (Matthew 6:9-13)

OR

Prayer 2 : -- *“And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me:...”* (Matthew 26:39)

Let's Examine this First Prayer More Closely

(Matthew 6:9-13)9 -- “After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And **forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.** 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen”

-There's One Main Reason Christ Couldn't Pray this Prayer for Himself. What is it?

“...forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”

CHRIST IS SINLESS!!!

Rather: It's a model prayer for us!!!

As a model prayer for us it is Encouraging

- God is our Father!**
- He is in Heaven and rules all things!**
- The very mention of His name is awesome**
- We can seek His will to be obeyed here as in Heaven**
- He faithfully provides for our daily food & and other needs**
- We can ask Him for forgiveness when we “blow it”!**
- We can seek His strength to avoid temptations to sin.**
- His kingdom, power and glory shall never end!!!!**

Now Let's Consider the Real "Lord's Prayer"

(Matthew 26:37-43) -- "And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. 38 Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. 39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, **O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.** 40 And he cometh unto the disciples, and **findeth them asleep**, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? 41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. 42 He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, **O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.** 43 And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy."

THIS PRAYER IS ALSO ENCOURAGING TO THE BELIEVER

-It demonstrated His ability to experience the agony which had to be endured for our sins

-It also demonstrated His willingness to endure that punishment for us from The Father

-Because He paid the price for our sins, we, His people are **SAVED – FOREVER no matter what happens here in this mortal life.**

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

- Those whose hearts the Lord has captured with His Love have an everlasting reward awaiting us from Christ for what HE did.**
- We are bought, paid for, and His forever!**
- If you are His, He, Himself, looks forward to this eternal union with You.**

--1 Corinthians 2:9 -- But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

HOWEVER . . . !!!

If you are one that doesn't love Him, and you continue apart from him for the rest of your life, you will never have hope.

But if you ARE such a one and are burdened with this reality. Then there's hope for you too.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Jesus said:

John 6:37 -- “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”

Matthew 11:28-30 “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Revelation 21:3-8 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. 6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

But

8 the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

**THOSE OF US, WHOM THE LORD HAS SAVED,
HAVE A SERIOUS MISSION TO PURSUE**

**PERHAPS SOMEONE,
TO WHOM YOU PRESENT CHRIST,
SHALL BELIEVE AND BE SAVED**

Closing Comment

NOTE: Items associated with this lesson can be obtained at the link below

<http://lightingdarkness.com/Two Prayers/>