

I. Recap of last week and introduction for tonight.

- A. Recap of last week's message on the kindness of God in Christ.
- B. Knowledge of God's kindness is fundamental to understanding Him. It's why He saves (Ephesians 2:7), how He calls people/groups to repentance (Romans 2:4), how He treats people and how we are to treat people (Galatians 5:22). The kindness of God is a foundational reality to many spiritual and kingdom realities and is something the Scriptures explicitly call us to consider and continue in (Romans 11:22).
- C. The whole of Scripture makes clear that God has tender affection for all of His sons and daughters who are in Christ. Though He is the all-powerful and holy Creator, He is also the all-patient and humble Father who relates to us with sympathy and tender mercy.

II. God's kindness later—when we see Him face to face.

Revelation 21:3-4 | ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

- A. My kids get hurt (or hurt each other, haha) and start crying probably every day. One of the great privileges I have as a daddy is to be able to get down on a knee, wipe their tears away, hug them and make them feel better.
- B. There's coming a day when you and I will finally see God face to face and experience moments like this with Him. Just as it states in this passage, He will extend His hand and wipe the tears out of our eyes with His fingers. Think about what this reveals about the nature and heart of God.

III. God's kindness now—when we don't see Him.

Luke 11:9-13 | ⁹ "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

- A. My kids love asking for things and I love giving them what they ask for—and beyond. As human fathers, we're hard-wired to want to bless our children in ways that make them happy and whole.
- B. What Jesus is saying in His teaching about prayer here is that God the Father is more motivated to give us good gifts including more of the Holy Spirit—more of Himself, in other words.
- C. STORY—I will never forget as long as I live the time I told Noah to begin praying for Lego sets because I couldn't just buy new ones all of the time. Soon, we had huge Lego sets showing up outside on a regular basis. Noah has a really good Father who listens.

IV. God's kindness then—in our worst moments.

Luke 15:20-24 | ²⁰ "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. ²³ And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; ²⁴ for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

- A. The ultimate issue people want to know is what God thinks of them when they're in their worst and weakest place spiritually. When Jesus preached about what His Father is like toward the most broken and rebellious, He revealed Him to be incredibly kind and receptive to the repentant. Jesus didn't present His Father as controlling, but as deeply compassionate. He accepts us back with great joy and celebration, not with tentative calculation.

Joel 2:13 | So rend your heart (*internal*), and not your garments (*external*); Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.

- B. I believe God is revealing His kindness in this hour like never before in order to call the whole world to Himself like never before.

Help me improve my notes! The first person to point out a legitimate mistake/typo on this document (during service) gets \$1.

Greater Peoria House of Prayer Announcements for March 23, 2018

- Welcome** to the Greater Peoria House of Prayer... we're glad you're here and blessed to be worshipping God with you! Be sure to pick up the **free** materials at the back table in the prayer room or the desk near the front of the downstairs fellowship area, which includes teaching notes, stickers, pens, prayer cards and more. **Daily schedule:** We have morning prayer right here in this room seven days a week from 7-8 a.m. Monday - Friday and 8-9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. We have afternoon prayer four days a week: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. - noon. We have evening prayer with live worship from 6-8 p.m. Monday - Saturday. On Friday's, we have an extra prayer gathering from 10-11:30 a.m. Our **Friday Encounter Night** is from 6-9 p.m. and is our main corporate gathering each Friday evening featuring live worship and a teaching to inspire love for Jesus and prayer.
- UPCOMING EVENTS:** The 2nd annual Central Illinois Prayer Summit will be May 4-5 (Friday and Saturday) at the Gateway Building in downtown Peoria.
- Prayer room ministry opportunities:** If you are interested in leading or ministering during a live worship set by singing, playing an instrument, prayer leading or behind the sound board, please contact us at info@gphop.org. We'd love to have you serve on one of our teams! **Team ministry opportunities:** If you feel the Lord has gifted you in the prophetic (or would like to grow in this gifting) and would consider helping on a prophetic team, send an email to info@gphop.org. Contact Mandy Kistner at mandykistner@yahoo.com if you would like to schedule a future healing ministry appointment or help out on the healing team.
- Missions:** Please keep the following missionaries we support in prayer as well as be sensitive to their financial needs: **Ashley Bucknam** and **Alicia Wright** (ACTS School, Colorado Springs, CO); **Tim and Blair Fraim** (Florianopolis House of Prayer; Florianopolis, Brazil); **Eric and Erin Simmons** (Minnesota House of Prayer Network; Twin Cities, MN); **Amy Dirks** and **Phil Kellenberger** (International House of Prayer, Kansas City, MO). Also keep friends **Tyler and Sarah Cook** and family in prayer who are beginning a HOP in Ottawa, IL.
- Social media:** Follow us on Facebook (Greater Peoria House of Prayer - GPHOP), Twitter (@GPHOPrayer), Instagram (@GPHOPrayer), Vimeo and YouTube for regular updates and inspiration. Use these social media sites to get the word out, share pictures, quotes you heard, etc. Contact Derek at derek@gphop.org if you're interested in helping with GPHOP's social media.
- Refuge ministry:** There are several groups who use our facility for their ministry purposes. Please keep the following in prayer: Christian Business Men's Connection Bible studies (Thursday mornings), Kinisi 424 senior worship leader meetings (monthly/as needed), kingdom business prayer groups (as needed), prophetic dance classes (as needed) and Sunday church gatherings (as needed).
- We provide **free wifi** to everyone here! The password for the **GPHOP** router is on the chalkboard in the downstairs fellowship area. You can also connect to either the CableWiFi or xfinitywifi routers if you have a personal Comcast account.
- Prayer requests:** If you would like our community to pray for something specific, please submit it to info@gphop.org.
- Giving:** The prayer room budget is approximately \$3,000 per month. If you have been blessed by the GPHOP and would like sow financially into the ministry, we would be more than blessed. You can give in cash, but if you would like to give to GPHOP with a check, please make it out to "Greater Peoria House of Prayer" or "GPHOP"—your gift is tax deductible. Thank you for your generosity! It's helping make day and night prayer with worship possible in central Illinois. You can place your gift in the Saturday night offering during the 7 p.m. teaching or drop it in either of the two black donation boxes. Donations can also be mailed to our physical address at 117 East Washington Street, East Peoria, IL 61611. Donors can also use PayPal to give electronically.

*Thank you for helping to **keep this prayer room sacred** by ensuring conversations with others are brief and kindly reminding others to do the same. There is a large fellowship area downstairs if you would like to talk at length.*