

The House of prayer

AND JESUS ENTERED THE TEMPLE AND DROVE OUT ALL THOSE WHO WERE BUYING AND SELLING IN THE TEMPLE, AND OVERTURNED THE TABLES OF THE MONEY CHANGERS AND THE SEATS OF THOSE WHO WERE SELLING DOVES. AND HE *SAID TO THEM, "IT IS WRITTEN, 'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER'; BUT YOU ARE MAKING IT A ROBBERS' DEN."

(MAT 21:12-13)

So what is prayer?

- ▶ προσευχή
- ▶ proseuchē; ; *prayer*: - earnestly , place of prayer , prayer, prayers .
- ▶ תפלה
- ▶ tephillah ; *prayer*: - prayer , prayers.
- ▶ פלל
- ▶ palal; a prim. root; *to intervene, interpose*: intercede, interposed, made judgment favourable, make supplication, mediate, pray.

It is a priestly role, bringing love offerings to God

- ▶ But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvellous light;
- ▶ (1Pe 2:9)
- ▶ Enter His gates with thanksgiving *And* His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting *And* His faithfulness to all generations.
- ▶ (Psa 100:4-5)

How to get your prayer heard

- ▶ To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. For, "THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT. "HE MUST TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; HE MUST SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT. "FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL." Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?
- ▶ (1Pe 3:8-13)

Take care of what you say

- ▶ For we all stumble in many *ways*. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.
- ▶ (Jas 3:2)
- ▶ But no one can tame the tongue; *it is* a restless evil *and* full of deadly poison. With it we bless *our* Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; from the same mouth come *both* blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. Does a fountain send out from the same opening *both* fresh and bitter *water*?
- ▶ (Jas 3:8-11)

Priests of Love

- ▶ The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober *spirit* for the purpose of prayer. Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint. As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, *is to do so* as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves *is to do so* as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- ▶ (1Pe 4:7-11)