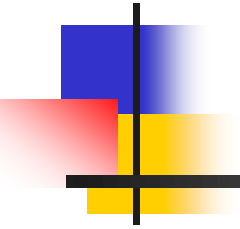


The Church's Last Stand





George Armstrong
Custer, cavalry
commander

Brigadier General at
age 23, daring and
fearless in battle

Led the decisive
charge at Gettysburg

Biggest celebrity to
come out of the Civil
War, and most
photographed

Willful, swaggering
self-confidence got
himself and 220
soldiers killed at the
Battle of the Little
Bighorn





Luke 18:9-12 – I am RIGHT

⁹ And He also told this parable to some people who **trusted in themselves** that they were righteous, and **viewed others with contempt:** ¹⁰ “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that **I am not like other people:** swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² **I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’**



Luke 18:13-14 I am WEAK

13 But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be [f]merciful to me, the sinner!' **14** I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; **for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.**"



Humility vs Pride

- Humility = Absolute, complete, entire dependence on God
- Pride = any attitude we have or action we take that is NOT rooted in absolute, complete, entire dependence on God
- Whether we realize it or not, we all live most of our lives in pride, with some level of **seeking our will our way**, instead of surrendering in humility to Him



Mosquito Prayer Bands

18 Truly I say to you, whatever you [q]bind on earth [r]shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you [s]loose on earth [t]shall have been loosed in heaven.

19 "Again I say to you, that if **two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask,** it shall be done for them [u]by My Father who is in heaven. 20 For where two or three have gathered together in My name, **I AM there in their midst.**" **Matthew 18**



Great Expectations

- **Expect God to Use YOU** to attack the Gates of Hades!!! - God ordained the Ekklesia (that means YOU and me) to be his agents for the Kingdom Transformation OUT IN THE WORLD
 - We are not called to sit in a building!
- **Expect God to do the UNEXPECTED** with us, in us and through us (Ephesians 3:20)
 - He is able to do exceeding abundantly **beyond anything we can ask think**, according to **HIS power that works within us**



Ekklesia is a Paradigm Shift

- The point of this approach to prayer is not to tell God what **you think needs to be done** or ask Him to do anything just because it seems to you like it would be good and solve the problem
- Instead, **ask God to MOVE** in this situation and **Do what He wants to do – an act of total dependence**
- **Lord's prayer is an expression of Humility – our total dependence**



Making Our Stand in Prayer

“The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray.” Samuel Chadwick



Jesus + Nothing = EVERYTHING

- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY