

July 11, 2020

**"The Way of Jesus is the Way of Life and the Way of Life can change the world."** Bishop Curry

*"I begin to worry about those I love. Help me to do everything I can for them and then to leave them in your care."* Prayer in the Evening

When Melissa was pregnant with Elizabeth, I worried. I didn't like it when Elizabeth kicked because it made me feel very claustrophobic. I was ready to induce early if the doctor would permit it. The doctor didn't permit it and she was born on June 8, 2006 – two days after her predicted due date of 06-06-06. My old law partner and his family were at the hospital when Elizabeth was born. I remember looking at him when Elizabeth was born and saying how relieved I was that my time of worrying about her had come to an end. He looked back at me with a smile and said "It's only just beginning."

He wasn't kidding.

We all naturally worry about the people we love. We worry about the events that shape all of their lives -- the first day of pre-school, times on the playground, school award ceremonies, driving a car by themselves, first-loves, moving from home, marriage, etc., etc., etc. Each day I pray that the world will appreciate my children for the incredible people I think they are, that their friends will love them a fraction of the amount that I love them, and that they will value themselves in the ways that I value them.

On a side note, I also remember his advice about when Elizabeth inevitably begins dating. His advice – make sure that her self-esteem and confidence are so great that she will scare away most of the boys and the remainder will appreciate who she is as a person.

The prayer for the Evening spoke to me when I prayed "I begin to worry about those I love. Help me to do everything I can for them and then to leave them in your care."

Although I would gladly give up myself for my family, there is only so much we can reasonably do for the people in our lives. Jesus already warned us about worrying (*And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?* Matthew 6:27). One of the most important things we can do (for them and us) is to pray and then to let go.

God is very much present in all that we do, and all that they do. We must trust that God is with them and loving them in the good and the bad.

Bonus 1: Here is a link to Fran McKendree singing [The Lord's Prayer](#). It is a beautiful version.

Bonus 2: Our Psalm today begins with the word “hyssop” in the first verse. Hyssop, an herb in the mint family with cleansing, medicinal, and flavoring properties, was prolific in the Middle East and was used in a variety of ways. Hyssop was a purifier, whose name actually means “holy herb.” The Bible mentions hyssop several times, mostly in the Old Testament. In Leviticus, God commanded God's people to use hyssop in the ceremonial cleansing of people and houses. Hyssop is also used symbolically in the Bible. When the Israelites marked their doorposts with lamb's blood in order for the angel of death to pass over them, God instructed them to use a bunch of hyssop as a “paintbrush”. In Psalm 51, David is not referring to physical cleansing—rather, he is asking God to cleanse him spiritually as he confesses his sin. Hyssop also appears at Jesus' crucifixion, when the Roman soldiers offered Jesus a drink of wine vinegar on a sponge at the end of a stalk of hyssop. This was, in fact, Jesus' last act before He declared His work on earth finished and gave up His spirit.

Bonus 3: These prayers were written in 1962 when the Book of Common Prayer used in the Church was written in 1928. Some of the words in these prayers may be difficult to pronounce. Most of the pronouns used are masculine and some other words suggest a man's world. It was not the intention of the author to offend anyone. If it bothers you, whenever you see the words Father, He, or Him replace the word with “God.” When you see a word such as Mankind replace it with “Humankind.” Note: No one has complained. It is just a random thought that I had.

Reminder: No email tomorrow. We will continue with the Seventh Day of Prayer on Monday.