



# Formation Devotional

February 4, 2020 Morning

Forming Worship, Life, and Ministry Together at Christ Covenant Church

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*As you read and pray this morning, remember you are in God's presence. Trust in the Holy Spirit to guide you and direct your thoughts. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.*

## Call to Prayer

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23)

## Opening Prayer

O God, who has made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent his blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 58)

## Confession of Sin

God of everlasting love, we confess that we have been unfaithful in our relationship with you and with one another. We have worshiped other gods: money, power, greed, and convenience. We have served our own self-interest instead of serving you and your people. We have not loved our neighbor as you have commanded, nor have we rightly loved ourselves. Forgive us, gracious God, and bring us back into the fullness of our relationship with you and one another. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Take a moment to confess your sins, knowing that he hears you, and respond in gratitude according to the assurance of grace.*

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
    bless his holy name!
- 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits,
- 3 who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,
- 4 who redeems your life from the pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
- 5 who satisfies you with good  
    so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. (Psalm 103:1-5)

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## Praying the Psalms

*Read the psalm prayerfully back to God by faith in Christ.*

### Psalm 49

#### Why Should I Fear in Times of Trouble?

*To the choirmaster. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah.*

Hear this, all peoples!

Give ear, all inhabitants of the world,

<sup>2</sup>both low and high,

rich and poor together!

<sup>3</sup>My mouth shall speak wisdom;

the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

<sup>4</sup>I will incline my ear to a proverb;

I will solve my riddle to the music of the lyre.

<sup>5</sup>Why should I fear in times of trouble,

when the iniquity of those who cheat me surrounds me,

<sup>6</sup>those who trust in their wealth

and boast of the abundance of their riches?

<sup>7</sup>Truly no man can ransom another,

or give to God the price of his life,

<sup>8</sup>for the ransom of their life is costly

and can never suffice,

<sup>9</sup>that he should live on forever

and never see the pit.

<sup>10</sup>For he sees that even the wise die;

the fool and the stupid alike must perish

and leave their wealth to others.

<sup>11</sup>Their graves are their homes forever,

their dwelling places to all generations,

though they called lands by their own names.

<sup>12</sup>Man in his pomp will not remain;

he is like the beasts that perish.

<sup>13</sup>This is the path of those who have foolish confidence;

yet after them people approve of their boasts. *Selah*

<sup>14</sup>Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol;

death shall be their shepherd,

and the upright shall rule over them in the morning.

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- Their form shall be consumed in Sheol, with no place to dwell.
- <sup>15</sup> But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol,  
for he will receive me. Selah
- <sup>16</sup> Be not afraid when a man becomes rich,  
when the glory of his house increases.
- <sup>17</sup> For when he dies he will carry nothing away;  
his glory will not go down after him.
- <sup>18</sup> For though, while he lives, he counts himself blessed  
— and though you get praise when you do well for yourself —
- <sup>19</sup> his soul will go to the generation of his fathers,  
who will never again see light.
- <sup>20</sup> Man in his pomp yet without understanding is like the beasts that perish.

## New Testament Reading

*Matthew was written for a Jewish audience. That's why he starts his gospel with a genealogy. Tracing the lineage of Jesus back to David would be significant to a Hebrew who was wondering if Jesus was the Jewish Messiah. In that light, Matthew's references to the Old Testament reminds us that Jesus is God's fulfillment of the Jewish law and the prophets. The Sermon on the Mount becomes the new identity for the people of God.*

*Meditate on the passage, noting a few words or a phrase that stood out or a promise to meditate on today. Take them to God in prayer.*

## Matthew 25

### The Parable of the Ten Virgins

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup> but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup> But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup> Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup> But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup> And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup> Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup> But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup> Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

### The Parable of the Talents

<sup>14</sup> “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.

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Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. <sup>17</sup>So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. <sup>18</sup>But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup>And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup>He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup>But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

## **The Final Judgment**

<sup>31</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup>Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup>And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. <sup>35</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? <sup>38</sup>And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? <sup>39</sup>And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' <sup>40</sup>And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

<sup>41</sup>“Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

## **Prayers of Intercession**

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## Gospel Identity

- Think ahead to your day. Pray that you would experience God's love for you in Christ in new and specific ways throughout the day today.
- Pray that those in the church and in your shepherding group would experience God's love in new ways.
- Pray that you would engage this world like Jesus, bringing hope and making disciples in all spheres of life.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Benediction

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

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*Wonder what your next step in spiritual formation is? Consider getting involved in a Growth Group.*

*For a handy guide to the devotional elements and an archive of past issues, visit [ccotc.org/devotional](http://ccotc.org/devotional).*