

Dig – Part # 3

Sunday, January 13, 2019
10:30 AM

Genesis 26:12-25 New International Version (NIV)

18 Isaac **reopened the wells** that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died, and he gave them the same names his father had given them.

This morning we continue our quest to re-dig or perhaps dig for the first time wells of spiritual nourishment. As we do we continue to

recognize...

1. The Vital Importance of Fresh Water

The fact is we all need fresh spiritual water to maintain our spiritual lives and growth.

Moreover, you cannot survive off of yesterday's water... We need a fresh supply

appreciate...

2. The Proven Validity of Old Wells

In doing so we must be aware of two threats that may prevent us from drawing fresh spiritual water from those wells

- Wells that have been stopped up and rendered ineffective by the enemy. The enemy knows the importance of these old wells and seeks to keep us from benefiting for their nourishing supply.
- Spiritual practices that have been neglected, forgotten, never passed on and thus never understood.

realize...

3. The required Necessity of Work

Maintaining open wells takes work. Drawing water from those wells takes work.

The means of getting the water (The Bucket) is not near as important as the Well itself. There may be new methods of drawing the water and that is ok.

- The Well of The Word of God
- The Well of Prayer and intimacy with God
- The Well of Fellowship with other Believers
- The Well of The Baptism of The Holy Spirit
- The Well of Forgiveness
- The Well of Evangelism

Last week we talked about The Well of The Word of God. Today I want to take a look at a very deep and powerful well.

The Well of Prayer and Intimacy with God

Jesus gave us great instruction on how to dig this well

Matthew 6:9-13 (NASB)

9 “Pray, then, in this way:

‘Our Father who is in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.

10 ‘Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

11 ‘Give us this day our daily bread.

12 ‘And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 ‘And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.’

These aren’t just words to repeat but a pattern that teaches us how we should pray

Let us be like the disciple who after he observed Jesus praying asked of him...

Luke 11:1 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus’ Teaching on Prayer

11 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

Our digging begins as we come to believe that **We have a Father in heaven who talks to us and wants us to talk to Him**

"True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that - it is spiritual transaction with the Creator of Heaven and Earth." - Charles Spurgeon

Matthew 7:11 English Standard Version (ESV)

11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

"If you believe in prayer at all, expect God to hear you. If you do not expect, you will not have. God will not hear you unless you believe He will hear you; but if you believe He will, He will be as good as your faith." - Charles Spurgeon

1 John 5:14 New International Version (NIV)

14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

Continue to dig this well by **Making your prayer time holy (Set Apart)**

Hallowed - hagiazo, the Septuagint word for qadhash: Holy, Sanctified, set apart, rendered fit for spiritual service

Matthew 6:6 New International Version (NIV)

6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

This isn't prayer and watch television. Prayer and look on Facebook. Prayer and read the newspaper.

Talk to Him

Matthew 7:7-11 New International Version (NIV)

7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. **8** For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

9 "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? **10** Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? **11** If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

"Prayer is simply talking to God like a friend and should be the easiest thing we do each day." - **Joyce Meyer**

Tell Him how you feel.

Tell Him you are hurting, tell Him you are confused, scared, angry, frustrated, depressed, ready to give up

Tell Him you are grateful, thankful, joyful, full of praise

Tell Him you need wisdom, guidance, provision forgiveness

TALK TO HIM

Quiet yourself so that you can listen to what God wants to say

"God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer."

"Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts." - **Mother Teresa**

Psalm 46:10 New International Version (NIV)

10 He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations,

I will be exalted in the earth."

A man prayed, and at first he thought that prayer was talking. But he became more and more quiet until in the end he realized prayer is listening.

As my prayer became more attentive and inward, I had less and less to say. I finally became completely silent... This is how it is. To pray does not mean to listen to oneself speaking. Prayer involves becoming silent, and being silent, and waiting until God is heard.

Prayer is a silent surrendering of everything to God. - **Soren Kierkegaard**

The Amidah is the centerpiece of Jewish prayer, traditionally recited silently, three times a day, while standing still.

The stance of this prayer is rooted in the Bible, which records that the patriarch Abraham "got up early in the morning to the place where he had stood." (Genesis 19:27)

Genesis 19:27 English Standard Version (ESV)

27 And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the Lord.

Standing contrasts with moving, and the word *amad* ("stood") can also be translated as being still. This reading teaches us that the first dimension of prayer is to become still.

As the mind can continue racing even when the body has become still, it is helpful to bring attention to the stillness of the body, to the release of the outbreath, to the simple contact between the feet and the ground and let the mind begin to align with presence.

The central part of the weekday Amidah consists of 13 blessings, each of which has a particular quality:

1. *Honen Hada'at* (Who favors us with knowledge):
2. *Harotzeh Bit'shuvah* (Who longs for repentance):
3. *Hamarbeh Lis'loach* (Who is ever willing to forgive):
4. *Goel Yisrael* (Redeemer of Israel):
5. *Rofeh Holeh Amo Yisrael* (Who heals His people Israel):
6. *M'varech Hashanim* (Who blesses the years):
7. *M'kabetz Nidchei Amo Yisrael* (Who gathers together the dispersed of His people Israel):
8. *Ohev Tzedakah Umishpat* (Who loves righteousness and judgment):
9. *Shover Oyvim Umachniyah Zaidim* (Who breaks enemies and humbles the arrogant):
10. *Mish'an Umivtach Latzadikim* (Who supports and trusts the righteous):
11. *Boneh Yerushalayim* (Who builds Jerusalem):
12. *Matzmiach Keren Yeshua* (Who flourishes the glory of salvation):
13. *Shomea T'fillah* (Who hears prayer):

Daily Bread

"I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had no where else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day." - Abraham Lincoln

1 Chronicles 16:11 English Standard Version (ESV)

11 Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!

Forgiveness keeps the well open

"The Christian life is not a constant high. I have my moments of deep discouragement. I have to go to God in prayer with tears in my eyes, and say, 'O God, forgive me,' or 'Help me.'" - Billy Graham

Mark 11:25 English Standard Version (ESV)

²⁵ And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

Psalms 66:18 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁸ If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

Follow His leading

"The reality is, my prayers don't change God. But, I am convinced prayer changes me." - Lysa TerKeurst

The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays.- Soren Kierkegaard

Nehemiah 9:12 English Standard Version (ESV)

12 By a pillar of cloud you led them in the day, and by a pillar of fire in the night to light for them the way in which they should go.