**The Prayer Class**

**Purpose:** ***To encourage greater participation and joy in prayer***

***The Prayer Class meets in God’s Throne Room 24/7***

*In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence Ephesians 3:12.*

Teacher: Abe Funk

Date: October 24, 2024

**Lesson:** *The Prayer for Courage*

**Welcome to The Prayer Class:**

Dear God, we thank you for your guidance, but we also need courage from you to do what you ask us to do. We can do everything with your strength and in your name. Thank you! Amen

**Bible Reading:** Joshua 1:1-9 (NIV)

1  After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide:   
2  "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them--to the Israelites.   
3  I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.   
4  Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates--all the Hittite country--to the Great Sea on the west.   
5  No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.   
6  "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them.   
7  **Be strong and very courageous**. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.   
8  Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.   
9  **Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous**. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

**Key Verse:** Be strong and very courageous 7a.

**Background and Lesson:**

Can you understand Joshua’s need for courage? Joshua had to step into Moses’ giant shoes. God very specifically told Joshua that he must be very careful to obey all the law that Moses left, and to lead this now powerful nation into their promised land. Joshua needed a lot of courage!

Mary Slessor, missionary to Sudan, once put herself directly between two tribal armies about to fight, demanding that they lay down their arms. At the end of the day the determined woman stood by a pile of weapons five feet high!

From childhood the odds were stacked against Mary Mitchell Slessor. Her mother worked long shifts as a weaver, while her alcoholic father drank away the money and terrified the children with his unstable lifestyle. At age 11 Slessor was forced to leave school and begin working 12-hour shifts in a factory. Yet the harsh conditions of her childhood did not break her spirit. She volunteered her time teaching Sunday School in the slums, became active in the Presbyterian Church and secretly dreamed of becoming a missionary.

In 1874, the death of David Livingstone set off a wave of missionary zeal throughout Scotland, and Slessor seized the opportunity to volunteer for missionary service in Sudan.

Twelve years into her service, Slessor discovered a traditional practise of Okyong people. They believed that if a woman gave birth to twins, one of them was the result of intercourse with a demon. It was common practise to leave newborns outside the village in clay pots to be eaten by ants or die of neglect. Slessor decided there was only one thing to do. She built a hut for herself out of sticks and mud and immediately began caring for any abandoned children, sometimes pulling them from trash heaps outside the villages. Soon her hut became an orphanage, a tangled web of hammocks and cradles all connected with string so she could rock the babies all at once while she prayed or read.

Slessor saved the lives of hundreds of orphans. She eventually became a district tribal judge and was awarded the “Order of the Hospital of Jerusalem.” All the accolades mostly embarrassed her, and she dismissed it as a bunch of “blarney.” Slessor died among her adopted children on January 13, 1915.

Among the many remarkable things in this remarkable woman’s life was her attitude toward prayer. Though every inch and activist, she believed prayer was the foundation of all activity. She wrote, “My life is one daily, hourly, record of answered prayer. For physical health, for mental health over strain, for guidance given marvellously, for errors and danger averted, for enmity to the Gospel subdued, for food provided the exact hour needed, for everything that goes to make up life and my poor service…I can testify with a full and often wonder-stricken awe that I…know God answers prayer…Prayer is the greatest power God has put into our hands for service. Prayer is harder work than doing…but the dynamic lies that way to advance the Kingdom…pray on—power lies that way.” --From the Prayer Bible

**Quote:** *Prayer is the greatest power God has put into our hands for service* –Mary Slessor

**Think About This:**

If you had the courage, what would you undertake for God today?

**Make Mary Slessor’s Prayer Your Own:**

“God plus one are always a majority—let me know that you are with me.”

**My Notes and what To Pray for:**

Add your prayer requests here: yourself, family, church family, missionaries, & leaders in government

Note: All Scriptures are from the NIV Bible unless otherwise indicated

***Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful*** Colossians 4:2

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