**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | A Prayer for America |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Daniel 9:1-19 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2311 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Our nation is in crisis.
      1. Prayer is our greatest resource.
      2. God is our sure defense and our hope.
   2. The prophet Daniel prayed in a time of national calamity, and God heard his prayer.
   3. Daniel 9:1-8
      1. Daniel had been reading the prophet Jeremiah.
         1. Jeremiah told how God was going to bring the Babylonians against His ancient people.
            1. Babylon today is known as Iraq.
      2. But God had a plan for His people and would bring them back again into the land and restore them.
   4. God does bring judgment upon sin.
   5. God has a plan, though His plan may seem to take a long time to work out.
      1. God may seem to let evil succeed, but it is only temporary.
   6. The hour in America is desperate.
      1. It is time for the saints of our Lord Jesus Christ to wake up and be called to serious prayer.
         1. Only believing, repenting prayer can hold back the floodtides of judgment and sin and release the cleansing power of the Lord Jesus upon our personal lives and our nation.
   7. Today’s message will help us learn to pray in a special way.
      1. Not ordinary prayer but extraordinary prayer; prayer that can touch the heart of God.
2. we are to pray with serious concentration (Daniel 9:3)
   1. Have you ever set your face in prayer?
      1. Have you desperately sought the Lord?
         1. It’s not the arithmetic of our prayers; how many prayers we pray.
         2. It’s not the rhetoric of our prayer; how eloquent or beautiful it may be.
         3. It’s not the geometry of our prayer; how long our prayer may be.
         4. It’s not the emotion of our prayer; how sweet our prayer is.
         5. It’s not the logic of our prayer; how argumentative our prayer is.
         6. It is the faith and fervency of our prayer that gets to God.
   2. Oftentimes we are simply playing church.
      1. We witness without tears.
      2. We pray without fasting.
      3. Is it any wonder then that we sow without reaping and have so little power in our lives?
   3. Prayer and fasting are the order of the day.
      1. Daniel 9:3
   4. In New Testament times, Jesus expects us to pray.
      1. Matthew 6:5
   5. Matthew 6:16
      1. In this passage, Jesus assumed that we would fast, just as He assumed that we would pray.
      2. We should not fast and pray to be seen of men; we should fast and pray with the right motivation.
   6. What is fasting?
      1. Fasting is going without food and other pleasures for a spiritual purpose.
         1. Fasting is not merely going without food for health reasons.
      2. The Bible always links fasting with spiritual purposes.
         1. Watching and fasting.
         2. Prayer and fasting.
         3. Worshipping and fasting.
   7. It is possible to fast for the wrong motivations.
      1. There are certain things we should avoid when fasting:
         1. Avoid exhibitionism.
            1. Matthew 6:16
         2. Avoid legalism.
            1. We shouldn’t get the idea that we can buy a blessing from God or that somehow God is obligated to us if we fast.
         3. Avoid ritualism.
            1. Some people fast ritualistically.
            2. Jesus told about a tax collector who boasted to the Lord that he fasted twice a week, but Jesus indicated that this man did not understand what real spiritual religion is.

Luke 18:11-14

* + - 1. Avoid asceticism.
         1. The devil would like to make us a type of religious recluse, but Biblical New Testament Christianity does not make us some sort of a holy hermit.
         2. We do not have to go off somewhere to fast.
      2. Avoid egotism.
         1. Do not swell up with pride because you fast.

Luke 18:11-12

* + - * 1. Fasting must be done unto the Lord.
        2. Zechariah 7:5
  1. What will fasting do?
     1. Fasting will strengthen your prayer.
        1. Joel 2:12
        2. Turn to God with all of your heart.
           1. Fasting shows that we have put our heart into it.
        3. Jeremiah 29:13
        4. When we fast, we’re giving Heaven notice that we mean business.
     2. Fasting brings faith into focus.
        1. It is like having a spiritual string tied around our finger, and every hunger pain reminds us that we’re to seek the face of God.
     3. Fasting subdues self.
        1. We don’t know how to say “no” to ourselves, and the Bible links pride with fullness of bread.
           1. Ezekiel 16:49
     4. Fasting will stay the judgment of God.
        1. Sometimes the wrath of God, the anger of God and the righteous judgment of God comes against a nation; but if that nation will fast and pray, God will withhold His judgment.
        2. Jonah 3:5, 10
           1. Nineveh was the capital city of the ancient empire of Assyria, but God wanted to forgive.
        3. God is a God of righteousness, judgment and justice; but God had rather show mercy than to send judgment.
        4. Jeremiah 18:7-8
           1. God is not just talking about the nation of Israel in this passage, but He’s talking about nations in general.
     5. Fasting stops the enemy of God.
        1. 2 Chronicles 20:3-4, 29
        2. We are in a cosmic battle; we’re not in a battle against flesh and blood.
           1. We’re in a battle against principalities and powers.
           2. Ephesians 6:12
        3. Prayer is like a missile that cannot be shot down, and it can go anywhere.
     6. Fasting seeks guidance.
        1. If you want to know the will of God, then fast and pray.
        2. Acts 13:2
        3. One reason why the early church grew as rapidly as it did was because they were serious in prayer.
           1. They believed that God could do what they could not do.
     7. Fasting shatters strongholds.
        1. People have strongholds of fear, bitterness, resentment and habits.
        2. Fasting can demolish the strongholds that the enemy has put into our lives.
        3. Isaiah 58:6
  2. How should we fast?
     1. Examine your motivation.
        1. Ask God about it.
        2. Don’t fast out of legalism.
        3. Prayerfully choose your own fast.
           1. The Bible gives no rules about fasting.

It doesn’t say when to start or stop fasting.

* + 1. Avoid extremism.
       1. A one day fast is a good start.
       2. Choose your fast upon a day when you can give yourself to seeking the Lord.
       3. Fasting is to be linked with prayer, worship and spiritual exercise.
       4. A normal fast is doing without food but normally taking some water.
       5. When you break your fast, break it by eating lightly.
       6. Talk to your doctor before fasting if you take medication, are pregnant, or have other health concerns.
    2. Avoid bragging about fasting.
       1. We become like hypocrites if we brag about our fast.

1. we are to pray with steadfast confidence (Daniel 9:4)
   1. In serious times, we need to learn to glance at our problem and gaze at our God.
   2. Daniel’s prayer was saturated in confidence in Almighty God.
      1. Daniel 9:4
      2. Daniel 9:7
      3. Daniel 9:9
      4. Daniel 9:14
         1. In his prayer, Daniel is talking about God’s greatness, God’s awe, God’s power, His righteousness, and His mercy.
   3. It is impossible to see who our great God is in a time of crisis and not want to pray.
   4. The basis of Daniel’s prayer to our great God was the shed blood of Jesus Christ.
      1. Daniel 9:20-21
         1. The evening oblation was the time when the sacrifices were made in the temple.
         2. The temple had been destroyed for almost seventy years when Daniel prayed this prayer, but he had it in his memory.
         3. The evening oblation was between 3:00 PM and 4:00 PM.
            1. The Bible calls this the “ninth hour.”
         4. This is a prophecy of Jesus Christ upon the cross.
            1. Matthew 27:46
         5. Daniel was looking back to a bloody sacrifice.
            1. In New Testament times, we look back to an even greater sacrifice: the shed blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
   5. We come to God, not with the brass of our emotions or the pewter of our self-worth, but with the gold of His glory and the incense of His mighty name.
2. we are to pray with sincere confession (daniel 9:4-14)
   1. Daniel confessed both personal and national sins.
      1. He confessed personal sins.
         1. The Bible does not mention any sin that Daniel ever committed.
            1. There is no sin listed against Joseph or Daniel in the Bible.
            2. Romans 3:23
         2. Daniel was a godly man, and he confessed his sin.
         3. Many of us sit in church and wonder if those old sinners in America will get right with God.
            1. The closer we get to God, the more we realize how insignificant and sinful we ourselves are.
            2. This is not a time for finger-pointing in America.

This is a time for repentance of personal sin.

* + - 1. 1 Peter 4:17
    1. He also confessed national sins.
       1. Daniel confessed the sin of his people Israel, and he realized that Israel was in difficulty because of national sin.
       2. God had brought the Babylonians against Israel, but that did not mean that He was on the side of the Babylonians.
          1. Isaiah 10:5
          2. God brought judgment against His ancient people because of their sin.

This does not mean that God doesn’t love His people.

* + - 1. America has national sins that we need to confess:
         1. Our pride in materialism
         2. Our neglect of the poor and needy
         3. Racism
         4. Sexual immorality
         5. Abortion
         6. Godless humanism
  1. We can confess our personal sin and be sure that God will forgive us.
     1. 1 John 1:9
  2. When we confess national sin, we can pray that others will do the same thing.
     1. When Jesus was being nailed to the cross, He did not say, “I forgive you,” but He prayed for their forgiveness.
        1. Luke 23:34

1. we are to pray with spiritual concern (daniel 9:17-19)
   1. Many of our prayers are selfish prayers.
      1. We often pray about inconveniences.
         1. We pray about long lines at the airport, etc.
   2. Daniel 9:17-19
      1. Daniel was not merely trying to get out of difficulty.
      2. Daniel was not trying to get everything healed so that the people could go back to their own careless and selfish lives.
   3. Why do we want a revival?
      1. Do we want it for our own sake?
      2. Do we want it for our family’s sake?
      3. Do we want it for our church’s sake?
      4. Do we want it for our nation’s sake?
      5. Or, do we want it for God’s sake?
         1. Matthew 6:9-13
            1. It isn’t that God is not concerned about our personal needs; we can surely prayer for our daily bread and pray about our trespasses.
            2. But, first of all, we should pray for the glory of God.
            3. When we begin to pray for the glory of God, then God moves in.

God will not share His glory with another.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. It is prayer time in America.
      1. It is time for people who know God to seek the face of God in prayer.
      2. These are desperate days in which we live.
   2. We need to set ourselves to pray.
      1. This does not mean that we go around with a long face and that we take the joy out of life.
         1. Joy is part of our strength.
            1. Nehemiah 8:10
         2. Matthew 6:17
   3. James 5:16
      1. Are you a righteous person?
      2. To pray without a heart given to God is a religious farce.
   4. The first thing you need to do is to get on praying ground, which is to be saved by God’s power divine.
   5. Are you saved?
   6. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   7. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16