



SERMON OUTLINE - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2017

(LORD'S PRAYER sermon series)

The Furnace Room: *Because Someone Prayed*

(Matthew 6:10)

INTRODUCTION: *A wonderful memory of prayer in a furnace room with Jim the church janitor . . .*

I. TODAY LET'S MEET *SOMEONE* WHO WENT TO JESUS AS A PRAYER INTERCESSOR

- A. He was an unnamed friend of Mary, Martha, & Lazarus (John 11:1-3)
- B. He was **the someone who prayed**, and Jesus listened (John 11:4)
- C. Jesus' raising of Lazarus from death demonstrates the heart & soul of the Gospel (John 11:25 & 43)
- D. This is also the heart & soul of Martin Luther's Reformation

II. THE POWER OF GOD IS UNLEASHED BY INTERCESSORY PRAYER

- A. "*On earth as it is in heaven*" is realized because *someone* prayed
- B. We are welcomed into **God's furnace room** to pray & our prayers are precious to God (Ephesians 6:18)
- C. The apostle John knew about praying in **the furnace room** while exiled on the island of Patmos (Revelation 1:10)
- D. It was true for John . . . it was true for Peter & Paul . . . it was true for Martin Luther, and it is true for you: *God can use evil for good* (Genesis 50:20)
- E. In exile, in his own **furnace room of prayer**, God gives John a vision that becomes the New Testament Book of Revelation
- F. This vision includes silence in heaven as the prayers of God's people rise to God as incense and He listens (Revelation 8:1 and ff)
- G. Our Lord listens & His will is done "*on earth as it is in heaven*" (Revelation 8:1; John 11:4)
- H. Never pay attention to the loud voice of this world or the devil's whisper that tell you God doesn't listen to your feeble prayers.
- I. We have full access to **God's furnace room of prayer** because of Jesus (Ephesians 2:18)
- J. The apostle John tells us our prayers rise like incense & God's answers come down like thunder (Revelation 8:5)

CONCLUSION: *Thank you, Jim the janitor & thank You dear Lord for welcoming us into **the furnace room** to pray.*