

KSW18 to May 4

ACCOUNTABILITY TIME!

April 28 Su Reading 118 — Matthew 6:1-15 — The Lord's Prayer

¹ *“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.*

² *“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*

⁵ *“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*

⁷ *“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹ Pray then like this:*

*“Our Father 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 lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.*

¹⁴ *“For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

ESV Footnotes

(6:9) Or *Let your name be kept holy, or Let your name be treated with reverence*

(6:10) Or *Let your kingdom come, let your will be done*

(6:11) Or *our bread for tomorrow*

(6:13) Or *the evil one; some manuscripts add For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen*

God's Hallowed Name — This passage points out several attributes of God. He is “*your Father who is in heaven*” (v. 1), which indicates both His relationship with us and His overall sovereignty. He is also “*your Father who sees in secret ... [and] knows what you need before you ask*” (vv. 4, 6), which shows His omniscience, His infinite knowledge. In the beginning of Jesus' suggested prayer, the Father's sovereignty is again noted, but added to that is “*hallowed be your name*” (v. 9). We will encounter the word behind “*hallowed*” frequently in the NT, which means “*made holy*,” and is often translated “*sanctified*.” The Father's name is not only “Yahweh” (or “Jehovah”), but it also represents His entire character—who He is. He is holy, set apart as being very different from His creation and as being worthy of the highest honor. We also need to honor Him in our prayers. As Jesus' prayer began with recognition and honor to the Father, we should worship Him before we get to our list of

what we want to request from Him. We should ask for *His* will before we request *our* will (“*Your kingdom come, your will be done...*”—v. 10). God’s *name* is holy because *He* is holy.

[Bless His Holy Name - YouTube](#)

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless His holy name!
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless His holy name!
— Andraé Crouch (1973)

ACCOUNTABILITY TIME! If you are up to date in your reading as of today, please [click here](#) to leave your email address or let me know at accbibleread@gmail.com.

ACCOUNTABILITY REMINDER

April 29 M Reading 119 — Luke 1:39-45 — Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹ *In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah,* ⁴⁰ *and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.* ⁴¹ *And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit,* ⁴² *and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!* ⁴³ *And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?* ⁴⁴ *For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.* ⁴⁵ *And blessed is she who believed that there would be^[fn] a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”*

ESV Footnotes

(1:45) Or *believed, for there will be*

Filled with the Spirit — Last week, we saw the prophecy that John would be “*filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb*” (Lk. 1:15). In our reading for today, we see evidence of that filling in John when he “*leaped for joy*” at the sound of Mary’s greeting (v. 44). Three months before his birth, this real person in the womb was able to experience joy. Then, for the second time in the NT, it was Elizabeth who “*was filled with the Holy Spirit*” (v. 41). What was the evidence of her filling? Several things were revealed to her by the Spirit. First, she knew that Mary was pregnant long before it would have shown physically, saying “*blessed is the fruit of your womb!*” (v. 42). Second, she knew that Mary’s baby would be “*my Lord*” (v. 43), a divine person. Third, she knew that Mary believed divine, prophetic information that was given to her, and she knew the content of it, saying “*...blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord*” (v. 45). Elizabeth was given that information because she was “*filled with the Holy Spirit.*” Since the Holy Spirit lives in us born-again believers, we should also show evidence of His presence. The fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) should provide some of that evidence that others can see in our lives.

[Every Time I Feel the Spirit - YouTube](#)

Ev’ry time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart, I will pray.
Yes, ev’ry time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart, I will pray.
— anonymous spiritual

ACCOUNTABILITY REMINDER If you are up to date in your reading as of today, but did not report yesterday, please [click here](#) to leave your email address or let me know at accbibleread@gmail.com.

ACCOUNTABILITY FINAL DAY

April 30 Tu Reading 120 — Luke 1:67-79 — Zechariah's Prophecy

⁶⁷ *And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,*

⁶⁸ *“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,*
for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹ *and has raised up a horn of salvation for us*
in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰ *as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,*
⁷¹ *that we should be saved from our enemies*
and from the hand of all who hate us;
⁷² *to show the mercy promised to our fathers*
and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³ *the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us*
⁷⁴ *that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,*
might serve him without fear,
⁷⁵ *in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.*
⁷⁶ *And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;*
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷ *to give knowledge of salvation to his people*
in the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸ *because of the tender mercy of our God,*
whereby the sunrise shall visit us^[fn] from on high
⁷⁹ *to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,*
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

ESV Footnotes

(1:78) Or *when the sunrise shall dawn upon us*; some manuscripts *since the sunrise has visited us*

The Spirit of Prophecy — Zechariah remained mute until eight-day-old John was brought to the temple to be circumcised. When Zechariah confirmed that his name was to be John, his tongue was loosed. Then, this third member of this family was “*filled with the Holy Spirit*” (v. 67). The immediate result was that he prophesied, saying words of praise to God for providing a Savior (v. 69), for using prophets in the past (v. 70), for giving His holy covenant (v. 72), and for delivering Israel from enemies in the past so that His people could live in holiness without fear (vv. 74-75). This prophecy also shared information about John’s future ministry as a prophet that would prepare the way for the Messiah (v. 76). As with Elizabeth, Zechariah’s filling with the Holy Spirit resulted in insight from God. When we read Scripture, we should ask and search for insights from God that will enlighten us in spiritual knowledge and will direct us every day to walk in the light He gives to guide our feet (v. 79).

[Walk in the Light - YouTube](#)

The Spirit lives to set us free,
Walk, walk in the light.
He binds us all in unity,
Walk, walk in the light.
Walk in the light of the Lord.
— Damian Lundy (b. 1944)

ACCOUNTABILITY FINAL DAY! If you have not yet reported for this month, please let me know your reading status today at accbiblead@gmail.com.

May 1 W Reading 121 — Matthew 1:18-25 — Jesus' Miraculous Conception

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ^[fn] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed^[fn] to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

ESV Footnotes

(1:18) Some manuscripts of *the Christ*

(1:18) That is, legally pledged to be married

The Seed-placing Spirit — Mary was already pregnant when she visited Elizabeth for three months, so the evidence was beginning to show. Naturally, Joseph was upset; it looked like Mary had committed adultery. Just as it took the angel Gabriel to explain this miracle to Mary, so God had to send an angel to Joseph in a very specific dream to reveal the mystery. Twice in this passage it is said that this conception was "*from the Holy Spirit*" (vv. 18, 20). Without the means of sexual intercourse, the Spirit had placed this divine seed into the womb of Mary. This information was accepted by Mary because she knew that a man had not been involved, but it must have been extra hard for Joseph to accept because he knew that he was not involved. He needed this angelic dream to clear it up for him. Like Mary, Joseph obeyed, and they were formally married. It is hard to imagine the pain this couple had to face for years with the accusing looks and words from their families and friends in the small town of Nazareth, yet it was God's will, His plan. The way of the Spirit often brings us into situations that are uncomfortable, but we are to also be obedient because we know that God's way is the best way.

I couldn't find a video for this song, but it can be sung to the tune of "Take Time to be Holy."

God's way is the best way, though I may not see
Why sorrows and trials oft gather 'round me;
He ever is seeking my gold to refine,
So humbly I trust Him, my Savior divine.

— Lida Leech (b. 1873)

May 2 Th Reading 122 — Luke 2:22-32 — Simeon Sees Salvation

²² *And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord* ²³ *(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord")* ²⁴ *and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."* ²⁵ *Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.* ²⁶ *And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.* ²⁷ *And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law,* ²⁸ *he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,*

²⁹ *"Lord, now you are letting your servant^[fn] depart in peace,
according to your word;*

³⁰ *for my eyes have seen your salvation*

³¹ *that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,*

³² *a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."*

ESV Footnotes

(2:29) Or *bondservant*

Spirit-led Nobodies — Simeon was another "nobody" used in God's plan for His significant purposes, in this case for the formal, public declaration of Jesus as the Messiah. What we read here is all that is known about Simeon. Regarding his character, verse 25 says that he was "*righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel,*" referring to the coming Messiah. We also learn three things about Simeon's relationship with the Spirit: 1. "*the Holy Spirit was upon him*" (v. 25b); 2. he received revelation from the Spirit that he would see the Messiah before he died (v. 26); and 3. he was led by the Spirit to be in the temple at the exact time when the baby Jesus was brought for this dedication ceremony (v. 27). Most of us would also be considered to be "nobodies," but we are very significant if we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. The Spirit was only *upon* Simeon, but He is *within* us. Insights are also revealed to us by the Spirit as we read and meditate on God's Word. We are also led by the Holy Spirit to be in the right place at the right time, like hearing a particular message just when we need help or saying the right words to a person at a critical point in their life. We often aren't even aware that the Spirit is guiding us in very definite ways.

[Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah - YouTube](#)

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim in this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
feed me 'til I want no more,
feed me 'til I want no more.

— William Williams (1745)

May 3 F Reading 123 — Luke 3:15-18 — People Question John

¹⁵ *As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ,* ¹⁶ *John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.* ¹⁷ *His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”*

¹⁸ *So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.*

Baptism of the Spirit — The primary ministry of John was to point people to Jesus, but it was also centered around baptism. The beginning of this chapter says that John was “*proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins*” (v. 3). He had already been filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother’s womb (Luke 1:15), but now his message was that he would introduce the Messiah who would “*baptize you with the Holy Spirit*” (3:16). There are two kinds of baptisms spoken about in today’s reading: water baptism, symbolizing opening oneself to God through repentance, and Spirit baptism, in which the Holy Spirit enters a person’s heart and life. This second step likely happened to many in John’s spiritually hungry audience on the Day of Pentecost when “*there were added that day about three thousand souls*” (Acts. 2:41). When did that happen to you? For many people, it is sudden and dramatic, like it was for me, but for others it is more slowly recognized, like a small internal candle that gradually grows into a large fire. For all of us, it happened because, in coming to Jesus in repentance and faith, the Holy Spirit came to indwell us.

[Baptized into Your Name, Most Holy – YouTube](#)

<p>Baptized into Your name, most holy, O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! I claim a place, though weak and lowly, Among Your saints, Your chosen host; Buried with Christ and dead to sin, Your Spirit now shall live within. — Johann Rambach (b. 1693)</p>

May 4 Sa Reading 124 — Matthew 7:1-6 — Not Giving Dogs What Is Holy

¹ *“Judge not, that you be not judged.* ² *For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.* ³ *Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?* ⁴ *Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye?* ⁵ *You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.*

⁶ *“Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.*

The Holy Message — The favorite Bible verse of the unbeliever to quote back to Christians is, “*Judge not, that you be not judged*” (v. 1). Why? Part of it is defensive; they don’t want us criticizing their sinful way of life. Sadly, part of it is also because they may sense our pride and suspect our

hypocrisy. The point Jesus was making in this statement centers on our hypocrisy, the person with a “log” in their eye. It is not that we are never to judge others, but we are not to have a judgmental attitude. Verse 6 shows some things we *are* to judge regarding others. Most dogs in Jesus’ time were not pets, but were roving, selfish, ferocious scavengers in the streets. They represent people who adamantly refuse anything they are not looking for, in this case, the gospel message. Their response is to attack anyone who presents the good news. Jesus later instructed His disciples to “*shake off the dust from your feet*” when encountering that kind of defiance (Matt. 10:14). The gospel message is too holy to waste on resistance. It is also too valuable to be wasted on “*pigs*,” people who see no value in these spiritual gems and “*trample them underfoot*” (Matt. 7:6). So, in this sense, we should judge others, unless we are using it as an excuse not to share the good news with them because we only *think* they won’t accept it. In sharing it, we may discover if they are “*dogs*” or “*pigs*” by their response.

[Holy Bible, Book Divine - YouTube](#)

Holy Bible, book divine,
Precious treasure, thou art mine;
Mine to tell me whence I came,
Mine to teach me what I am:

— John Burton (1803)