

Send Me!

Message 04 of the series "Dangerous Prayers"

1. God wants us to pray about all of our needs.

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 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!" Matthew 7:7-11 (NIV)

2. God also wants us to pray dangerous prayers like "send me."

Note: "Send me" is a dangerous prayer because it involves the complete surrender of our plans. It means we are willing to go whenever, wherever, and do whatever God calls us to do.

a. Jonah said, "I won't go!"

"The Lord gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: 'Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are.' But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord." Jonah 1:1-3a (NLT)

Note: We can't run away from God.

"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast." Psalm 139:7-10 (NIV)

b. Moses said, "Send someone else!"

"...God called to him from within the bush, 'Moses! ...I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.' ...Moses said to the Lord, 'Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.' The Lord said to him, 'Who gave human beings their mouths? ...Is it not I, the Lord? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.' But Moses said, 'Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else.'" Exodus 3:4,10; 4:10-13 (NIV)

Note: God knows what He's doing when He calls us. He doesn't want excuses.

"Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful."

1 Corinthians 1:26-27 (NLT)

c. Isaiah said, "Here I am. Send me!"

"It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. They were calling out to each other, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven's Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!' Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke. Then I said, 'It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord of Heaven's Armies.' Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. He touched my lips with it and said, 'See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven.' Then I heard the Lord asking, 'Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?' I said, 'Here I am. Send me!'"

Isaiah 6:1-8 (NLT)

Note: Isaiah was ready to go wherever God sent him because he had seen God as He is.

Note: Isaiah was ready to go wherever God sent him because he acknowledged his sinfulness and experienced God's grace.

3. Four things I can do to make myself more available to God:

a. I can spend a few minutes each day praising God for who He is.

I praise you Jesus. You are: King of Kings, Lord of Lords, God Almighty, the Wonderful Counselor, the Prince of Peace, the Light of the world, the Living Word, our Redeemer, the Good Shepherd, the Rock of all ages, my Hiding Place, Savior of the world, the Bread of Life, the Living Water, my Fortress, my Deliverer, my Victory, the Source of all Wisdom, the Source of all Righteousness, the Everlasting One, the Most High God, the Lamb that was slain for the sins of the world, the Mighty Warrior, my Provider, the Way, the Truth, the Resurrection and the Life, the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. You are all that I need. You are all that I want. You are worthy of all praise.

- b. I can start a Bible reading plan and ask God to speak to me through His Word each day.

“For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.”

Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)

- c. I can spend a few minutes in silence every day asking God to search me and then surrender whatever He reveals to be blocking His power and His love.

“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalm 139:23-24 (NIV)

- d. I can ask God to help me take a small step of faith each day.

“Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin...” Zechariah 4:10 (NLT)

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Connect Group Questions

1. If God said “yes” to every prayer you prayed in the last week, what would be different in the world today? Be specific.
2. Read Jonah 1:1-3, Exodus 4:13 and Isaiah 6:8. With which OT prophet can you best identify? Share a time in your life when you knew God was calling you to do something outside your comfort zone. How did you respond?
3. Discuss the following prayer written by Sir Frances Drake in 1577: “Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves, when our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little, when we arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore. Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess we have lost our thirst for the waters of life; Having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity and in our efforts to build a new earth, we have allowed our vision of the new Heaven to dim. Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas where storms will show your mastery; Where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars. We ask You to push back the horizons of our hopes; and to push into the future in strength, courage, hope, and love.”
4. Of the three prayers we have discussed in this series – “Search me”, “Break me,” and “Send me” – which one is the most difficult for you to pray? Why?
5. Read Hebrews 4:12. Why is daily Bible reading vital to responding to God’s call?
6. Spend some time as a group praying for each other.
7. Discuss the following quotations:

“What if, instead of always asking God to do something on our behalf, we dared to ask God to use us on His behalf?” Craig Groeschel

“What you feed grows. What you starve dies.” Craig Groeschel

“Use me, God. Show me how to take who I am, who I want to be, and what I can do, and use it for a purpose greater than myself.” Martin Luther King Jr.

Great Resource:

Dangerous Prayers: Because Following Jesus was Never meant to be Safe. By Craig Groeschel, Zondervan, 2020