

SERMON - THE 12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY - 10 AUGUST 2008  
St. John's Anglican Church, Greensboro, North Carolina

---

*ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve; Pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy; forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. Amen.*

We prayed in this morning's Collect to God, God who is always more ready to hear us than we are to pray to Him.

I don't know about you but there are those many times when I find it hard to pray, those many times when it seems that God has hung up the phone and the line is dead.

I feel that we all experience those times when our prayer life, our very spiritual life, has become as dry as the Sahara.

And I know that we are not alone in that, in those periods of life when we feel so disconnected from God.

But what did we hear this morning besides that God is more ready to listen to us than we are to pray to Him? It is that He is willing to give us much more than we either desire or deserve.

God is always there. God is always there to hear us, to listen to us and to give us His love that passes all understanding.

So maybe it is not God who has terminated the conversation after all!

Maybe it is our own self that is getting in the way of our communication with the Almighty.

Maybe we are so wrapped up in our worries, our concerns and even our anger at God, that we can't seem to get our prayer life together.

When this happens it reminds me of the parable of the sower. You remember **Luke 8:7 (KJV)** *And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it.*

And how Jesus explained it to his disciples **Luke 8:14 (KJV)** *And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.*

That happens to all of us at one time or another. At any given time in our lives we can be like any of the seeds that were sowed, on the hard path, in shallow soil, sometimes even in the good soil. But many times we are stuck among the thorns.

And that is alright too.

It is alright to say to God that you are worried, that you have doubts, that you are angry as all get-out at Him. It is alright to tell God that you do not understand why, you can fill in your own line as to why you are asking why.

God understands. God has understood long before you or I get around to telling him how you feel about it.

I am not trying to say that I can understand the thoughts of God but I have the Blessed Assurance that He, God, who would sacrifice His only Son for me so I can participate in His eternal plans, will know my thoughts long before I do.

The Psalmist wrote in **Psalm 139:2-5 (KJV)** *Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. <sup>3</sup>Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. <sup>4</sup>For there is not a word in my tongue,*

*but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. <sup>5</sup>Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.*

We cannot begin to understand God or God's love for us, even in those times when we cannot seem to feel his presence. Again, from *Psalm 139:6 (KJV)* *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.*

We just have to trust in God's love even in our anger and in our hurt and realize that it is not God that is doing this to us or to someone we love but rather that stuff happens and it is at this kind of point in our life that we need Him and His strength and His courage.

It is just what we prayed in today's Collect that we need to remember. *Pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy; forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask.*

God's love is infinite and compared to our feeble attempts to control Him by ignoring Him, all our efforts are futile. God's love will overcome everything, even when we can not seem to get our prayers formed into words, even when they are just our thoughts.

God knows those things which are weighing on our hearts and He hears our concerns. In those times the Holy Spirit intercedes for us to God. *Romans 8:26(KJV)* *Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

Remember, even if we do not feel like praying, God hears our concerns, and is willing to listen to those prayers of our hearts, even more willing than we are to pray.

SERMON - THE 12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY - 10 AUGUST 2008  
St. John's Anglican Church, Greensboro, North Carolina

---

*ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve; Pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy; forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. Amen.*

We prayed in this morning's Collect to God, God who is always more ready to hear us than we are to pray to Him.

I don't know about you but there are those many times when I find it hard to pray, those many times when it seems that God has hung up the phone and the line is dead.

I feel that we all experience those times when our prayer life, our very spiritual life, has become as dry as the Sahara.

And I know that we are not alone in that, in those periods of life when we feel so disconnected from God.

But what did we hear this morning besides that God is more ready to listen to us than we are to pray to Him? It is that He is willing to give us much more than we either desire or deserve.

God is always there. God is always there to hear us, to listen to us and to give us His love that passes all understanding.

So maybe it is not God who has terminated the conversation after all!

Maybe it is our own self that is getting in the way of our communication with the Almighty.

Maybe we are so wrapped up in our worries, our concerns and even our anger at God, that we can't seem to get our prayer life together.

When this happens it reminds me of the parable of the sower. You remember **Luke 8:7 (KJV)** *And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it.*

And how Jesus explained it to his disciples **Luke 8:14 (KJV)** *And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.*

That happens to all of us at one time or another. At any given time in our lives we can be like any of the seeds that were sowed, on the hard path, in shallow soil, sometimes even in the good soil. But many times we are stuck among the thorns.

And that is alright too.

It is alright to say to God that you are worried, that you have doubts, that you are angry as all get-out at Him. It is alright to tell God that you do not understand why, you can fill in your own line as to why you are asking why.

God understands. God has understood long before you or I get around to telling him how you feel about it.

I am not trying to say that I can understand the thoughts of God but I have the Blessed Assurance that He, God, who would sacrifice His only Son for me so I can participate in His eternal plans, will know my thoughts long before I do.

The Psalmist wrote in **Psalm 139:2-5 (KJV)** *Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. <sup>3</sup>Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. <sup>4</sup>For there is not a word in my tongue,*

*but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. <sup>5</sup>Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.*

We cannot begin to understand God or God's love for us, even in those times when we cannot seem to feel his presence. Again, from *Psalm 139:6 (KJV)* *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.*

We just have to trust in God's love even in our anger and in our hurt and realize that it is not God that is doing this to us or to someone we love but rather that stuff happens and it is at this kind of point in our life that we need Him and His strength and His courage.

It is just what we prayed in today's Collect that we need to remember. *Pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy; forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask.*

God's love is infinite and compared to our feeble attempts to control Him by ignoring Him, all our efforts are futile. God's love will overcome everything, even when we can not seem to get our prayers formed into words, even when they are just our thoughts.

God knows those things which are weighing on our hearts and He hears our concerns. In those times the Holy Spirit intercedes for us to God. *Romans 8:26(KJV)* *Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

Remember, even if we do not feel like praying, God hears our concerns, and is willing to listen to those prayers of our hearts, even more willing than we are to pray.