



"On your walls,
O Jerusalem I have
set watchmen
all the day and
all the night."

Isaiah 62:6



WATCHMEN ON THE WALL



A Tale of Two Men

Watchmen Prayer Warriors,

Prayer was one of the most important aspects of Jesus' earthly life. Not only did he constantly practice prayer in His own life, He often taught about prayer. One of Jesus' teachings on prayer speaks deeply to my heart as both a convicting and encouraging message. In Luke 18:9-14, Jesus tells a story of two men who prayed. Listen as Jesus takes us into the heart and mind of these men:

⁹He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and looked down on everyone else: ¹⁰"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee was standing and praying like this about himself: 'God, I thank you that I'm not like other people—greedy, unrighteous, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of everything I get.' ¹³"But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even raise his eyes to heaven but kept striking his chest and saying, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner!' ¹⁴I tell you, this one went down to his house justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

What does this parable impress upon me? I realize that my flesh is proud. I realize that I use the wrong standard to measure my righteousness...other people rather than a holy and perfect God. I realize that God "resists the proud" (James 4:6a). But I also realize that a person who is truly humble – recognizing who God is and recognizing who he/she is – garners the compassion and response of God. He "gives grace to the humble." (James 4:6b).

Prayer is so much of the roadmap to Mobberly's future as we seek to be used to expand God's Kingdom in East Texas and around the world. We must be a people of prayer for the people and ministries noted below. More than that, we must be a people who pray out of honest and transparent hearts. We must recognize that we pray to the sovereign God of the universe, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Though all-knowing and all-powerful, this tender Shepherd desires to come alongside His sheep. **Pray with humility, Watchmen, as we seek the heart and movement of God!**



Greg Martin
Pastor of Congregational Care

Special Prayers for All in These Times

2 Timothy 1:7 says, *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”* As believers, we have the authority Christ has given us to pray about the spread of any disease and pray for healing for those who have the Coronavirus.

- Praise God for His sovereignty. He is and always will be in control of all things. Pray that we will trust Him to help us navigate this season of uncertainty.
- Ask God in His mercy to stop this pandemic and save lives, not only in our communities but also around the world, particularly in places unequipped medically to deal with the virus. (Isaiah 59:1-2)
- Pray that the Lord will give us wisdom in this moment of fear as the foundations of what we know are shaken, that others would realize how fragile life is and how real eternity is and they would see their need to turn to God. Scripture says: *“Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts.”* (Psalms 90:12)
- Ask God to protect our missionaries and their families around the world, using this global crisis to advance His Good News to all nations. (Mark 16:15)
- Pray for wisdom for governmental leaders, the CDC, researchers, other medical personnel, leaders in churches and other strategic places to have the wisdom to direct us in the best courses of action for prevention and care. (Romans 13:1-4).
- Pray for the protection of doctors, nurses, crisis response teams, emergency first responders, researchers and other medical professionals who risk their lives to protect ours.
- Pray for comfort and healing for those stricken with this virus. Pray they will receive the quality health care needed to regain health and strength. Pray for healing and for a treatment to cure and eradicate this virus.
- Pray for the effectiveness of the vaccines that are being distributed.
- Pray for peace, calmness, freedom from fear, anxiety and panic among individuals and communities.
- Pray for racial understanding, peace and harmony. Pray that every person, each an image-bearer of God, would experience justice and protection. Pray for an end to violent confrontations.

See web links below for the most up-to-date information about our campus schedules and COVID-19 guidelines.

Here are some places on our website (all accessible from our home page at mobberly.org) where you can get encouragement and information:

- View Worship Gatherings online (mobberly.org/online)
- Find information about the Pastor Search Committee and process (mobberly.org/psc)
- Prayer concerns (mobberly.org/pray)
- Give to the Lord through Mobberly (mobberly.org/give)
- Information about Mobberly and COVID-19 (mobberly.org/corona)
- Stay connected with our social media accounts on [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).
- Subscribe to our [email news](#) list.

Praise: Praising God for who He is and for what He is doing.

- **God values humility**

- **Psalm 51:17 (CSB):** *“The sacrifice pleasing to God is a broken spirit. You will not despise a broken and humbled heart, God.”*
- **Isaiah 66:2 (CSB):** *“My hand made all these things, and so they all came into being. This is the Lord’s declaration. I will look favorably on this kind of person: one who is humble, submissive in spirit, and trembles at my word.”*
- **Matthew 18:4 (CSB):** *“Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child—this one is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”*

Praise the Lord:

- Pastor Search Committee (PSC):
 - Praise God for His leading the PSC to a potential pastor for Mobberly.
 - Praise God for all He has done in the hearts of the PSC and our beloved church to be ready for a new day of ministry under a new pastor.
- For bringing growth and excitement to a Marshall Young Adult mid-week Connect Group.
- For the healthy delivery of Lillian Deville, new daughter of Marshall Youth Minister Aaron and wife Shelby.
- For bringing an influx of new people to the Marshall community, several of whom have already visited Mobberly.
- For the opportunity to share the gospel with over 100 East Texas Baptist University (ETBU) football players who came to church at the Marshall campus as a team.
- For a good relational connection to the new Marshall High School boys’ soccer coach who is a believer.
- For a gathering of 35 core leaders in Marshall beginning to dream about and own a vision for ministry.
- For raising up a new Connect Group leader to launch a group in Marshall for single adults, meeting a great need!
- That our Choir and Orchestra are back leading in worship in all three Longview campus worship gatherings. What a blessing to have them back!
- For a special Night of Prayer and Worship on Aug. 15 which was so well attended. It was a meaningful time of worship and focused prayer for our Pastor Search Committee, community and schools.
- Over 250 guests heard the gospel, received a free meal and got free haircuts for school at Hamburgers and Haircuts. God blessed in many ways with over 85 volunteers and 16 hair stylists. Several indicated that they did not have a church home. We will follow up.
- For our fall Women’s Ministry leadership team who have met, trained, prayed and are ready to point others to Jesus this fall.
- For new Women’s Ministry leaders stepping in to use their gifts in new ways this fall as they serve the Lord and serve the women in our church through Bible study, college/young adult group leaders, care ministries and discipleship opportunities.
- Cade, an ETBU freshmen, came to salvation.
- For an influx of guests in the Young Adult ministry.
- For student salvations in Elevation since school has started back.
- For a great first day of new classes for the Children’s Ministry in Preschool, Elementary and Preteens!

- For His continued provision to allow for the maximum number of clients to be served by Hope Road Counselling (HRC) within the time and office space currently available.
- For a staff at HRC willing to demonstrate patience and perseverance by the power of the Holy Spirit as they serve people in their time of need.
- For His continuous guidance of the HRC leaders and their desire to follow hard after Him.
- Thrive! support ministry is reaching marginalized communities in our area.
- Child Protective Services (CPS) continues to partner with Thrive! to provide services to families in their care.
- Thrive! for Kids is fully staffed for the fall semester.
- Our Tuesday morning Family Services benevolence ministry continues its vital ministry. One person put his hope in Jesus through this team's ministry since our last Watchmen report! Pray for this new believer as he grows in Christ, **Kyle**.
 - Pray for follow-up by GO Share-Disciple-Multiply teams and others seeking to call these people into discipling relationships with Mobberly or another church family.

Repent: Of sins committed and commands neglected.

Our ongoing sins disrupt our fellowship with our heavenly Father. This is why we need to repent of our sins and confess them to God. *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:9, CSB)

As you pray, take time to allow the Holy Spirit to reveal your sins. Think through various areas of your life: sins of thought, sins of attitude, sins of omission, sins of commission, sins of self-rule, sins of self-reliance or sins of relationships. Ask God for the grace to repent and to restore your fellowship. Then thank God your sins have already been paid for by Christ. Rest in His unfailing love.

Ask: When our hearts are God-oriented in praise and purified through repentance, then we are ready to "Ask." God encourages us to come boldly to Him and ask. *"Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need."* (Hebrews 4:16, CSB)

Ask God:

- Pastor Search Committee (PSC):
 - Pray for the PSC, Mobberly leadership, the potential pastor and his family as we all prepare for the future call to Mobberly.
 - Pray for the church family that the potential pastor would leave behind to join us. Pray for peace in the transition for all groups of people.
- Pray for those impacted by crises in areas such as Afghanistan (turmoil and persecution), Haiti (earthquake), Tennessee (flooding), and other places around the globe. Pray that people will turn to Jesus Christ as their hope.
- For two more Marshall Connect Group leaders to sense a call and to step up this month.
- To lead our Marshall campus attendees and members to connect with each other and deepen relationships/community.
- To bring people to salvation through the Marshall campus ministries this month.
- To give Marshall college students a passion to serve their local church.
- To protect the Marshall staff, their families and volunteers from COVID in order to continue serving at full strength.

- To speak to Pastor Geoffrey as he plans and prepares sermons for the Marshall campus during this month.
- To bless the Senior Adult and Youth Worship Night on Sep. 12 for senior adults and youth: for a good turnout from all age groups and that new intergenerational connections would be formed.
- To impress on our people's hearts the need for corporate prayer and worship, and that many will return for the next Night of Prayer and Worship on Sep. 26.
- To bless the GO Share/Disciple/Multiply class as it starts Aug. 25. Please pray participants have a renewed vision for discipleship and each will be obedient to take part in the team efforts to disciple new believers, nonbelievers, and church members who are hungry for growth. Pray for personal life transformation and spiritual multiplication for each person involved.
- To guide our 40+ flag football coaches and cheer coaches as they go through the Upward season!
- To provide one more head football coach for a 1st-2nd grade team.
- To bless the Malawi mission trip, Sept. 1-11. Pray for
 - The team: Calixto Arce, Jay Shepherd, Shiela Noel, Lynn Tann, Mateo Cepeda, Darlene Shirlen, Gregg Zackary.
 - Safe passage into and out of countries with required COVID testing and protection for team against the COVID virus
 - Gregg as he extends trip to Zambia, Sept. 11-16 and coaches leaders from the city of Lusaka in the Younique Primer to be able to know and name their unique Life Call and develop SMART goals based on their Life Call.
- To continue to encourage and equip our Women's Ministry and its' leaders to serve women faithfully and creatively through continued seasons of flexibility.
- To continue to show our Women's Ministry leadership team how to create space for multi-generational ministry to occur among the women in our church.
- To encourage Mobberly's senior adults and students as together they share in a Worship Night filled with songs of faith and testimonies (Sept. 12).
- To bless Mobberly's Special Ministries team in the planning of an on-site minicamp experience for our Special Friends (Oct. 8).
- To provide additional Connect Group leaders for the Young Married Connect Group.
- To provide Disciple Group formation for those in the Young Adult Ministry.
- To heal our nation and world from COVID.
- To bring revival on our school campuses...that God would use our students in sharing the gospel and that we would see a dramatic change on all of our school campuses.
- To help our children find their identities in Jesus and a sense of belonging in our church.
- To raise up the person He would have serve in the front office at Hope Road Counseling (HRC).
- For continued guidance regarding a larger space for HRC, and for continued patience and perseverance as the staff waits on God's timing for a new space.
- To continue to protect the health and community of the staff at HRC.
- To guide the preparation of those leading the Spiritual Direction Groups beginning this month and to prepare the hearts of those who will participate in these groups.
- To bless new THRIVE! support groups starting Sept. 8. Pray for leaders and participants in Celebrate Recovery, Divorce Care, Grief Share, Thrive! For Kids and other support groups.
- For the right person to step into a supporting role teens in Thrive! for Students
- For the right man to join the DivorceCare leadership team.
- For comfort, peace, and felt-safety for the children, students, parents, and adults that will be attending Thrive! support groups this fall
- For CR participants and leaders to stay focused on their recovery and not let fear and anxiety overcome them.

- For health and safety of the leaders, participants and their families of our support groups
- For the Mobberly family to become more aware of the opportunities and services that Thrive! provides.
- For children in vulnerable situations to be safe and seen.
- For the health and safety of our area social workers.
- For peace in people dealing with anxieties caused by COVID.
- For our healthcare workers who are overwhelmed with the area caseloads.
- For comfort in families grieving the loss of a loved one.
- For wisdom and flexibility to meet the needs of those on the fringes of our society.

Yield: To what God says to me. Yield my will to the will of God. Yield my agenda to the plan God has for my life. We must be willing to yield our desires and our thoughts to God's sovereign wisdom. As Jesus faced the cross, He prayed in Matthew 26:39 (CSB), *"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will."* We must pray with that same spirit, humbly yielding our will to God's will. To close our prayer by "yielding" to God is a way in which we submit our desires to Him. In the end, it is our way of acknowledging His will, which is what will truly satisfy us anyway. God's will and plan are better than ours. He knows the end from the beginning, and He loves us more than we can ever imagine.

"¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even raise his eyes to heaven but kept striking his chest and saying, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner!' ¹⁴I tell you, this one went down to his house justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Luke 18:13-14 [CSB]
