

EPIC PRAYERS: A 5-WEEK VIRTUAL STUDY

SUMMER

*Women's Bible Study*

# PROVERBS

30:7-9

Agur's Prayer

# PROVERBS 30:1-5

<sup>1</sup>The sayings of Agur son of Jakeh—an oracle: This man declared to Ithiel, to Ithiel and to Ucal:

<sup>2</sup>“I am the most ignorant of men; I do not have a man’s understanding.

<sup>3</sup>I have not learned wisdom, nor have I knowledge of the Holy One.

<sup>4</sup>Who has gone up to heaven and come down? Who has gathered up the wind in the hollow of his hands? Who has wrapped up the waters in his cloak? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and the name of his son? Tell me if you know!

<sup>5</sup>“Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

# PROVERBS 30:6-12

<sup>6</sup>Do not add to his words,  
or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.

<sup>7</sup>“Two things I ask of you, O Lord; do not  
refuse me before I die:

<sup>8</sup>Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give  
me neither poverty nor riches, but give me  
only my daily bread.

<sup>9</sup>Otherwise, I may have too much and  
disown you and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’

Or I may become poor and steal, and so  
dishonor the name of my God.

<sup>10</sup>“Do not slander a servant to his master, or  
he will curse you, and you will pay for it.

<sup>11</sup>“There are those who curse their fathers  
and do not bless their mothers;

<sup>12</sup> those who are pure in their own eyes and  
yet are not cleansed of their filth;

# PROVERBS 30:13-18

<sup>13</sup> those whose eyes are ever so haughty,  
whose glances are so disdainful;

<sup>14</sup> those whose teeth are swords and whose  
jaws are set with knives to devour the poor  
from the earth, the needy from among  
mankind.

<sup>15</sup>“The leech has two daughters.

‘Give! Give!’ they cry.

“There are three things that are never  
satisfied, four that never say, ‘Enough!’:

<sup>16</sup>the grave, the barren womb,  
land, which is never satisfied with water, and  
fire, which never says, ‘Enough!’

<sup>17</sup>“The eye that mocks a father,  
that scorns obedience to a mother,  
will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley,  
will be eaten by the vultures.

<sup>18</sup>“There are three things that are too amazing  
for me, four that I do not understand:

# PROVERBS 30:19-25

<sup>19</sup> the way of an eagle in the sky,  
the way of a snake on a rock,  
the way of a ship on the high seas, and the  
way of a man with a maiden.

<sup>20</sup>“This is the way of an adulteress: She eats  
and wipes her mouth  
and says, ‘I’ve done nothing wrong.’”

<sup>21</sup>“Under three things the earth trembles,  
under four it cannot bear up:

<sup>22</sup> a servant who becomes king, a fool who  
is full of food,

<sup>23</sup> an unloved woman who is married,  
and a maidservant who displaces her  
mistress.

<sup>24</sup>“Four things on earth are small, yet they  
are extremely wise:

<sup>25</sup>Ants are creatures of little strength,  
yet they store up their food in the summer;

# PROVERBS 30:26-33

<sup>26</sup> coneys are creatures of little power, yet they make their home in the crags;

<sup>27</sup> locusts have no king, yet they advance together in ranks;

<sup>28</sup> a lizard can be caught with the hand, yet it is found in kings' palaces.

<sup>29</sup>“There are three things that are stately in their stride, four that move with stately bearing:

<sup>30</sup> a lion, mighty among beasts, who retreats before nothing;

<sup>31</sup> a strutting rooster, a he-goat, and a king with his army around him.

<sup>32</sup>“If you have played the fool and exalted yourself, or if you have planned evil, clap your hand over your mouth!

<sup>33</sup>For as churning the milk produces butter, and as twisting the nose produces blood, so stirring up anger produces strife.”

# BOOK OF PROVERBS

- **Wisdom Literature**
  - Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes
- **Principles Not Promises**
- **Answers the Question, "How shall we live?"**
- **Proverbs 30 is one of eleven extended discourses**



# 5 NUMERICAL SAYINGS

Things –

- that are never satisfied
- too amazing to understand
- under which the earth trembles
- that are small yet extremely wise
- that are stately in their stride

# FIRST REQUEST: KEEP ME FROM FALSEHOOD

- Falsehood – something untrue: a thought, an idea, any pretense
- Lies – lying speech: a false statement deliberately presented as true, with the intent to deceive
- Falsehood and lies are any thoughts, ideas or words that are not true. Any deception or pretense

# MOST DANGEROUS LIES

Any –

- Distortion of God's Word
- Contradiction of God's Word
- Addition to God's Word
- Rejection of God's Word

# APPLICATION OF FIRST REQUEST

- Know the truth of God's Word
- Do not add to God's Word

“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that *we may follow* all the words of this law.”

DEUTERONOMY 29:29

# SECOND REQUEST

Keep me from the extremes of  
poverty and wealth.

# WARNINGS ABOUT WEALTH

“When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.”

DEUTERONOMY 6:10-12

# WARNINGS ABOUT WEALTH

“The wealth of the rich is their  
fortified city,  
They imagine it an un-scalable  
wall.”

PROVERBS 18:11



# WARNINGS ABOUT WEALTH

“People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”

1 TIMOTHY 6:9-10

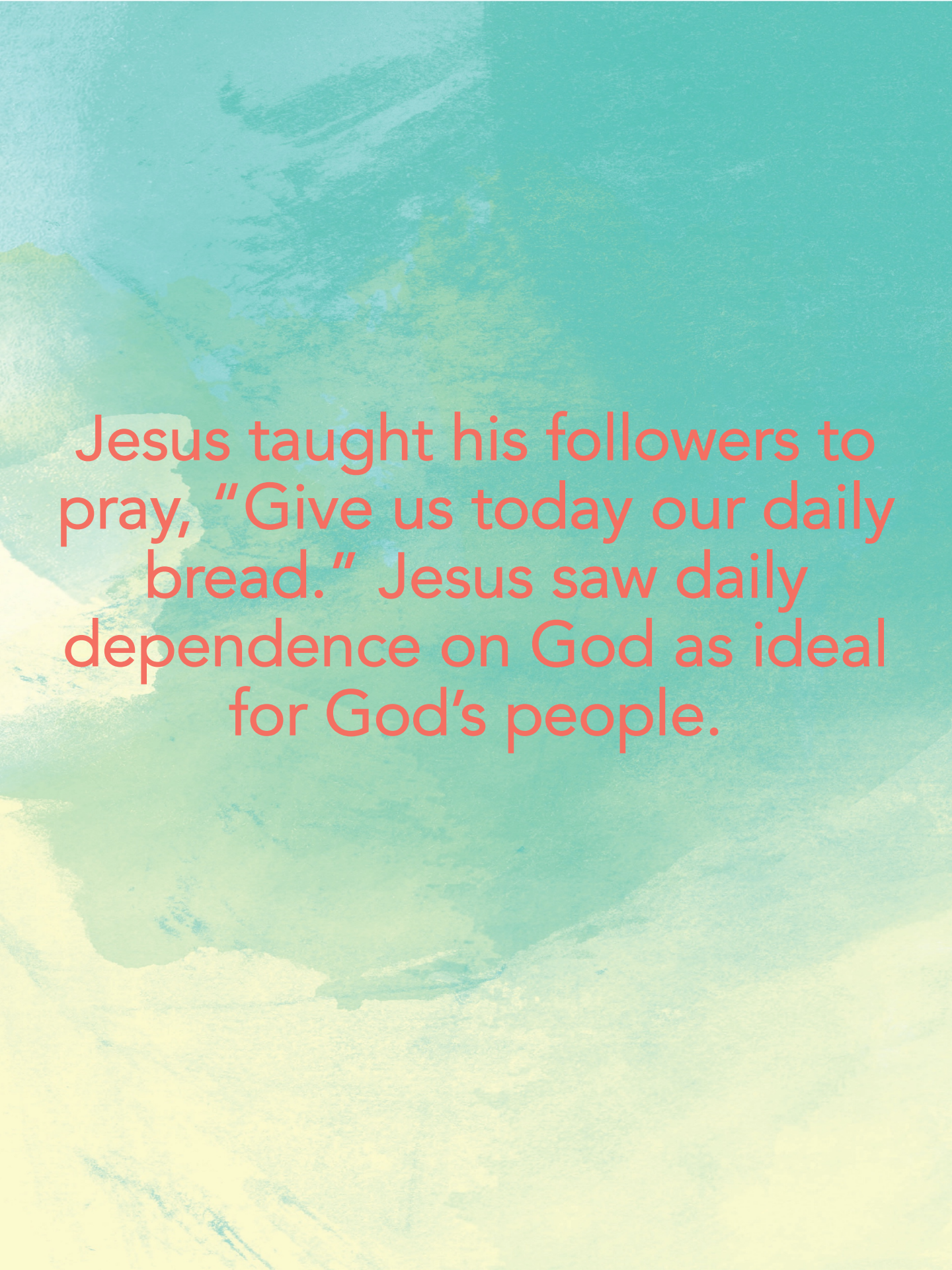
# WARNINGS ABOUT WEALTH

“The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns, is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful”

MATTHEW 13:22

# SELF-SUFFICIENCY

- Both extremes of poverty and wealth can lead to self-sufficiency
- Wealth says, "God is not necessary, *I can provide for myself.*"
- Poverty says, "God is not helping, *I must provide for myself.*"



Jesus taught his followers to pray, "Give us today our daily bread." Jesus saw daily dependence on God as ideal for God's people.

# APPLICATION OF SECOND REQUEST

## Two Principles:

- Avoid any extremes that would disown or dishonor God
- Live a life of daily faith