

FOCUSED LIVING PRAYER May - July 2021

German Wright

When my son, Caleb, was learning to drive, he made this observation: "Dad, the speed limit is 55 and you are going 65. But, when I drive on this road, you make me go 55. That doesn't seem right."

Wow. Busted. I clearly think that I am superior and I do not need to abide by the standard that I expect of my son!

This simple example applies to the often heated conversation on racial justice. I was recently asked to participate on a "Racial Equity" panel for a statewide association for the education of children. The way I prepared was to meditate on Matthew 7.



*"Do not judge, so that you will not be judged. **2**For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. **3**Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is 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! ...**12**"In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you..."*
Matt 7:1-3,5,12

Just as my son observed my speed limit double standard, I sometimes observe the double standard in panels like this. Group A demands from Group B a standard that the members of Group A do not want to personally apply to themselves. The sinful nature in each one of us loves to judge others and then say, 'but please don't judge me.'

In Matthew 7 we see that we are to apply the standard to ourselves before we have any right to apply it to others. If we are not willing to do this, then it is no longer equity, equality, or justice that we are really seeking.

Jesus could not have been clearer. **"Treat people the same way you want them to treat you."**

I want to be given the benefit of the doubt...so I give the benefit of the doubt.

I don't want others to jump to conclusions about me...so I purpose to not jump to conclusions about others. Instead, I put my energies into listening and finding out the facts and getting to know a person's heart.

Let's purpose to live out Matt 7 in our own circle of relationships. Let's not judge others with a standard by which we are not willing to abide. One of my circles is the staff of Focused Living. We have generational, racial, personality, family of origin, and denominational differences. We naturally have different perspectives on a variety of subjects, but we give each other the benefit of the doubt because we have come to know each other's heart.

Perry Bowers Family Prayer

Perry: the salvation of and hunger for growth in Christ for all 6 of our grandchildren (Lulu, Ezra, Zeq, Elenor, Hannah, Logan)

Endurance through the principles of Hebrews 12:1-3

That I would hear the Father's heart each morning when I meet with Him while reading His Word.

Janet: In a season of interceding for many in prayer and learning to trust God's sovereignty in new ways.

Marc & Megan (Bowers) Hunsaker: Thanking God as He provided a home (off Berry College campus & in great neighborhood) for them to move into in June. Pray for new friendships to be made and all the normal challenges of a move.

Eddie & Joy (Bowers) Centurion: Thanking God for close of another school year and the challenging opportunity for Joy to do an intensive masters program beginning this summer going through next summer in Special Education. Prayers needed for family to "pitch in" and flex as their busy life ramps up even more.

David Andes Family Prayer

David: That God would do a work in my heart to make me more like the Father in the Luke 15 story of the two lost sons - a relationship seeking dad with an overflowing bucket full of grace.

Katherine: "Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the Lord Has been good to you!"Ps. 116:7 So grateful for His goodness to me over 28 plus years of teaching. I will be transitioning to new adventures in June. Praise God with me.

Austin: Continued discernment for a ministry focus for Austin. Pray for a smooth transition as one respite care worker leaves and another one starts in May. He turns 23 on June 1st.

Cameron: Join us in "bringing the boy to Jesus" in prayer (Mark 9:19). That the Father of Light would shine into Cameron's dark places, address root issues and draw him to Himself. He plans to attend Clemson in the fall studying biochemistry. Pray that he would know that his parents love him and are for him

German Wright Family Prayer

Prayers for continued growth of the ministry and development of leaders and support teams.

Wisdom and direction on new location or building for the ministry.

Health, energy and strength to maintain structure and order in the home.

Grateful for the job and favor Caleb is currently experiencing. Prayers for direction on his desired career path.

Karl Reed Family Prayer

Karl and Jessica: Praising God for the provision of our new home! We are all settled in and everyone loves it. Pray for us as we parent and lead our children during this season. The 3 little ones require a lot of energy and our 2 oldest are growing through their very influential “tween / teen” years. We need wisdom, patience, and lots of grace.

The kiddos: Evelyn, Anthony, and Lillian have been doing great in school this year. Please keep praying for them as they study hard and pray for them to continually be lights of love and encouragement to their friends. Charlotte and Jackson continue to be mom’s little helpers at home and they continue to grow and learn more each day.