

“Jesus speaks plainly about His Father” John 16:23-30 Rogate 2025
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The teachings of Jesus were often quite obscure. He told His disciples as much in our Gospel today, saying,

This is why I speak to them in parables: ‘Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.’ In them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled: ‘You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

Today our Gospel lesson is a wonderful departure from that. Today, we get Jesus speaking clearly about His Father. Jesus teaches His disciples (and us) about his figurative and plain teaching. Now we know that Jesus used parables to teach. Jesus’ parables were earthly examples he used to explain deep, spiritual truths. Often it was obvious that the disciples did not always understand. After the parable of the Sower for example, the disciples asked what it meant. Jesus explained all to them. Jesus spoke plainly.

In verse 23, we get wonderful assurance about our Heavenly Father. Just pray and the Father hears. Just ask, and the Father will answer. This doesn’t mean you can pray for a new tractor, and have it show up, this whole section of scripture is referring to scriptural strengths. Need spiritual strength or more faith or perseverance? Ask, and it shall be given. It’s so simple!

Next, Jesus must teach the disciples about prayer. We get a clear teaching here – pray in Jesus’ name. They were not taught this before. In the days ahead, Jesus’ disciples would wholeheartedly pray for joy, strength, and comfort, just as we are called to do. We are given inspiration to pray according to what Christ went through on this earth. Jesus’ betrayal gives us reason to pray for joy. His crucifixion has us pray for strength. His burial calls us to pray for comfort.

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Jesus teaches his disciples about his death, leaving them and ascension, leaving again. And finally, using simple terms, they seem to “get it”, even though they don’t understand everything until after His ascension into Heaven. Jesus prepared them because He knew that sadness and sorrow could easily seep into one’s soul. Our world will always be a wicked world filled with sin and evil. This means that everything in this life is tainted by sin. We dare not expect our life to be exempt from the events that affect everyone else in this world. We, like everyone else, will also partake of the effects of sin. We will have heartache, sorrow, sadness, trials, and troubles that enter into our busy schedules. We may not always enjoy such things. It is then that we are reminded of the power God gives us through prayer. "Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him" (Ps 126:5, 6). We may sow in sadness and sorrow, but we will harvest divine joy. After having sorrow, we appreciate joy.

We live in a time and place where all kinds of experts offer all kinds of advice. Man’s wisdom and advice falls far short of the wisdom and truth that our gracious God gives to every believer. From time to time, we may wander a bit farther away than we ought to from the source of our faith. We may even wonder about God’s wisdom in or for our lives. God has all the answers for all of our lives and for all of time, right into eternity itself. "When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O Lord God Almighty" (Jer. 15:6). Whenever we hear God’s word, or read God’s word, or study God’s we grow in our Christian faith. This is God’s joy to and for us.

Consider the awesomeness of our heavenly Father. The Lord God Almighty is our Father. As our Father the Lord God Almighty invites us to

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come to him in prayer. We can pray to God anywhere and anytime and with
any and every kind of requests. But there is even more. "Now to him who is
able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his
power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ
Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!"(Eph. 3:20, 21). God can
and does more than we can imagine. God forgives us! God give us eternal
life! Thus we can happily and joyfully pray to Him.

Our heavenly Father does indeed know what we need before we even
ask for what we want. Why does the believer need to pray? Isaiah says that
the Lord hears before we ask and answers while we are still speaking (65:24).
Why pray if the Lord knows and does all of this? First and foremost, the Lord
himself encourages believers to pray continually. Scripture never says that we
ever pray enough. In fact, we must admit that our prayer time is not as often
as we need. "Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they
should always pray and not give up"(Luke 18:1). Why pray? Our prayers will
focus our attention on our Father. Our prayers will focus our attention on what
we need to pray for. Our prayers will focus our attention on others that truly
need our prayers. Prayers can focus us on our needs.

Our prayers and the prayers of all believers are not to be so much self-
focused as other-focused. In this world there are countless numbers who still
sit in the darkness of unbelief. There are many who are suffering great loss
and sorrow. Our prayers for them are desperately needed. Our Father hears.
And he answers. "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession
and thanksgiving be made for everyone--for kings and all those in authority,
that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" (1 Tim.
2:1, 2). Believers need to constantly pray for those with authority that they
would look favorably upon Christians. Our Father changes hearts one at a

“Jesus speaks plainly about His Father” John 16:23-30 Rogate 2025 time. Individuals are blessed. Churches and nations can be blessed when believers are able to live peaceful lives in godliness, holiness.

Our Father provides lovingly for us what we truly, deeply need. We know all too well the many things that we think we want. Much too often the things we want are centered on everything earthly. It is what we really need that matters the most to our heavenly Father. "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 Jn. 4:10). God gives us forgiveness through his Son. Such is God's great love for us! Our Father freely provides eternal gifts.

So, Jesus speaks plainly about his Father. Jesus' Father is our Father who answers joyfully every prayer. Jesus' Father is our Father who provides lovingly for us forever. What a miraculous wonder this is for us. "For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding" (COLOSSIANS 1:9). This is only one verse of Paul's prayer. We pray for all to know God's will and be filled with spiritual wisdom and understanding. We may also need to pray the same for ourselves. **JESUS SPEAKS PLAINLY ABOUT HIS FATHER.** Jesus' Father is our Father. Our Father answers our prayers with joy and provides for us lovingly – always. Amen.