

Episode 15

Music with a Message PRAYER

[BEGIN MUSIC]

NARRATOR: Welcome to Music with a Message, a show of inspirational music and thought exploring important principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Today's topic is Prayer and Supplication. We are all children of God. He loves us and knows our needs. And He wants us to communicate with him through prayer. Our Heavenly Father is always ready to hear and answer our prayers. Don't worry about your clumsily expressed feelings. Just talk to your Father. He hears every prayer and answers it in his way.

SONG: Hilary Weeks, "The Perfect Prayer"

NARRATOR: To make our prayers meaningful we must pray with sincerity and with all the energy of heart. Remember the needs of others as we pray. We should offer prayers for our welfare and also for the welfare of those who are around us.

SONG: Johanne Frechette Perry, "A Mother's Prayer"

NARRATOR: The prophet Alma counseled his son Helaman regarding prayer saying, "Cry unto God for all thy support; yea, let all thy doings be unto the Lord, and whithersoever thou goest let it be in the Lord; yea, let all thy thoughts be directed unto the Lord; yea, let the affections of thy heart be placed upon the Lord forever. Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good; yea, when thou liest down at night lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou risest in the morning let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day" [Alma 37:36-37].

SONG: Tammy Robinson, "Did You Think to Pray?"

NARRATOR: Personal, private prayer is an essential part of our spiritual development. At least every morning and every night we should find a place that is free from distractions and kneel in humility and commune with our Heavenly Father. Heavenly Father hears our prayers. He may not always answer as we expect. But He does answer in His own time and according to His will. If we, like the Savior, have the faith to put our trust in our Father in Heaven to submit to His will, the true spirit of peace will come as a witness and strength that he has heard and answered our prayers.

SONG: Rebecca Lopez, "He Hears Me"

NARRATOR: Alexander Dumas, in his classic tale *The Count of Monte Cristo*, wrote, "To the happy man, prayer is only a jumble of words until the day when sorrow comes to explain to him the sublime language by means of which he speaks to God."

SONG: Jenny Phillips, "Help Thou Mine Unbelief"

NARRATOR: Our Father in Heaven has given us the privilege and power of prayer. He has promised us peace in times of trial and has provided a way for us to come to Him in our need. Thankfully, we can call upon Him anytime, anywhere. We can speak to Him in the quiet thoughts of our mind and from the deepest feelings of our heart.

SONG: Brigham Young University Men's Chorus, "More Holiness Give Me"

NARRATOR: When we receive help from our Father in Heaven it is in response to faith, obedience and the proper use of agency. When answers to urgent prayer don't seem to come, it can be that we don't understand some truths about prayer or because we don't recognize answers when they come. It is a mistake to assume that every prayer we offer will be answered immediately. Some prayers require considerable effort on our part. Sometimes Heavenly Father answers yes, sometimes no. Often He withholds an answer not for lack of concern but because He loves us perfectly. He wants us to apply truths He has given us for us to grow. We need to trust our ability to make correct decisions. We need to do what we feel is right. In time He will answer. He will not fail us.

SONG: Roger Hoffman, "Unanswered Yet"

NARRATOR: The Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ began with a boy's private prayer. Perhaps one of the most powerful lessons the prophet Joseph Smith taught the world is contained in five simple words, he spoke to his mother after his experience in the grove of trees, "I have learned for myself" [JS-H 1:20]. In response to his humble prayer, the Heavens opened again. Joseph learned that the testimony of James was true, that a man who lacked wisdom might ask of God and obtain and not be upbraided. Moreover, Joseph learned that personal revelation may be received by those who humble themselves and approach God with unwavering faith and with broken hearts and with contrite spirits.

SONG: The Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square "Joseph Smith's First Prayer."

NARRATOR: You've been listening to Music with a Message

[END MUSIC]