

# Sunday Night Prayer Service

## August 21, 2005

### **Jude 1:1-7 (Living)**

From: Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ, and a brother of James.

To: Christians everywhere--beloved of God and chosen by him. [2] May you be given more and more of God's kindness, peace, and love.

[3] Dearly loved friends, I had been planning to write you some thoughts about the salvation God has given us, but now I find I must write of something else instead, urging you to stoutly defend the truth that God gave once for all to his people to keep without change through the years. [4] I say this because some godless teachers have wormed their way in among you, saying that after we become Christians we can do just as we like without fear of God's punishment. The fate of such people was written long ago, for they have turned against our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

[5] My answer to them is: Remember this fact--which you know already--that the Lord saved a whole nation of people out of the land of Egypt and then killed every one of them who did not trust and obey him. [6] And I remind you of those angels who were once pure and holy but turned to a life of sin. Now God has them chained up in prisons of darkness, waiting for the judgment day. [7] And don't forget the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring towns, all full of lust of every kind, including lust of men for other men. Those cities were destroyed by fire and continue to be a warning to us that there is a hell in which sinners are punished.

I watched a video a few years ago on Channel 8 that was a documentary about an outbreak of syphilis among a group of teenagers who lived in a very affluent subdivision near Atlanta, Georgia.

I was absolutely amazed and shocked at the lifestyle of those teenagers. Some of them were only thirteen and fourteen years old. They show a graph of the number of sexual partners each of those kids had and it was incredible. Some of the girls had had sex with more than 25 or 30 different boys and it was the same for the boys.

As they interviewed one after another of those kids who talked openly about their lifestyle, there was no remorse about it. They were not apologetic about it. It was simply a way of life. In their eyes, they were just doing what everybody else was doing.

It grieved me. It made me painfully aware that there are an awful lot of young people in America who are lost, without Christ, and therefore without hope, and headed for hell.

But it's not just young people who are lost. There are people in every age group who are lost. They desperately need to repent of their sins and receive Christ as their Savior and make Him the Lord of their lives. The problem is, most of them don't even know they are lost. They are headed straight toward hell and don't know it.

What can we do about it?

The answer is, we must pray!

**2 Chron. 7:14-15 (NKJV)**

if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. [15] Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place.

God listens to the prayers of His people.

Only the Holy Spirit can cause the blinded eyes of the lost to be opened to the gospel.

**2 Cor. 4:3-4 (NKJV)**

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, [4] whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

The reason so many are lost is because the god of this world has them blinded to the truth.

### **Acts 26:17-18 (NKJV)**

I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, [18] to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

God sent Paul to open the eyes of those who were in darkness and turn them from darkness to light.

What was the first thing that Paul said we needed to do?

### **1 Tim. 2:1-2 (NKJV)**

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, [2] for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

Paul tells us that if we hope to see any change in people we must pray for them. God listens when we pray.

Tonight, we are make intercession for people that are lost.

I think about Abraham. God was about to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

### **Genesis 18:22-33 (NKJV)**

Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the Lord. [23] And Abraham came near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? [24] Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it? [25] Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" [26] So the Lord said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes." [27] Then Abraham answered and said, "Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord:

[28] Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for lack of five?" So He said, "If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it." [29] And he spoke to Him yet again and said, "Suppose there should be forty found there?" So He said, "I will not do it for the sake of forty." [30] Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?" So He said, "I will not do it if I find thirty there." [31] And he said, "Indeed now, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: Suppose twenty should be found there?" So He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of twenty." [32] Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of ten." [33] So the Lord went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

Abraham stood in the gap for his nephew Lot. His prayer made all the difference.

Do you have a nephew who is lost? Are you interceding for him?

How about your son or daughter? Or you husband or wife?

How about some other family member who is lost? Or a friend or a neighbor?

How is praying for them?

Because of Abraham's prayer God sent some angels to Sodom to find Lot and they literally dragged him out of the city.

I believe that God will do the same for our lost loved ones if we will hold them up to Him in prayer.

I want you to write their names on a prayer card and tonight we are going to intercede for them.