

**"...he left and went off to a deserted place...where he prayed."**

*In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

*Today's Gospel, which I just read to you from St. Mark, is clear in its 2-fold message:*

- 1.) We should turn to Jesus in our needs for ourselves and family/friends, as the 1<sup>st</sup>-pope-to-be, Simon-Peter, turned to Jesus to heal his ailing mother-in-law.*
- 2.) As Jesus did, we too should go off to some deserted or quiet place to pray.*

*Since those messages are so clear, I have decided to employ a different 'tact' today. It's about prayer. It's about a specific prayer. It's about a prayer we say all the time, esp. when together.*

*I want to talk to you about ...the **Our Father**.*

*In my presentation of this Our Father ...it's a two-way conversation. So, to begin...*

**Once upon a time**, a certain fellow had this, unexpected dialogue with the Almighty.

*He began:*

*"Our Father Who Art in Heaven."*

**Yes?**

*Don't interrupt me. I'm praying.*

**But -- you called ME!**

*Called you? No, I didn't call you.*

*I'm praying:*

*"Our Father who art in Heaven."*

**There -- you did it again!**

*Did what?*

**CALLED me. You said...**

**"Our Father who art in Heaven"**

*Well, here I am.*

*What's on your mind?*

*But I didn't mean anything by it.*

*I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day.*

*I always say the Lord's Prayer.*

*It makes me feel good, kind of like fulfilling a duty.*

*Well ...all right.*

*Go on.*

*Okay, "Hallowed be thy name."*

*Hold it right there.*

*What do you mean by that?*

*By what?*

**By ... "Hallowed be Thy name"?**

*It means, it means ... Good grief, I don't know what it means.*

*How in the world should I know?*

*It's just a part of the prayer.*

*By the way, what does it mean?*

**It means: "honored," "holy," "wonderful."**

*Hey, that makes sense.*

*I never thought about what 'hallowed' meant before.*

*Thanks.*

*"Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven."*

**Do you really mean that?**

Sure, why not?

**So, -o, what are you doing about it?**

Doing? Why, nothing, I guess.

I just think it would be kind of neat if you got control of everything down here  
...like you have up there.

We're kind'a in a **mess** down here, you know.

**Yes, I know; but, have I got control of you?**

Well ...I go to church.

That isn't what I asked you.

What about your bad temper?

You've really got a problem there, you know.

And then there's the way you spend your money – so much on yourself.

And what about the kind of books you read? And those DVD's!

Now hold on --just a minute!

Stop picking on me!

I'm just as good as the rest of those people at church!

**Excuse ME.**

I thought you were praying for my will to be done.

If that is to happen, it will have to start with the ones who are praying for it.

Like you -- for example.

Oh, all right. I guess I do have some hang-ups.

Now that you mention it, I could probably name some others.

**So could I.**

I haven't thought about it very much until now,

But... I really would like to cut out some of those 'things.'

I would like to, you know, be ...really ...**free**.

**Good.**

Now we're getting somewhere.

We'll work together -- You and **ME**.

I'm proud of you.

Look, Lord, if you don't mind, I need to finish up here.

This is taking a lot longer than it usually does.

"Give us this day, our daily bread."

**You need to cut out the bread.**

**You're overweight as it is.**

Hey, wait a minute! What is this?

Here I was doing my religious duty, and all of a sudden,

You break in and remind me of all my hang-ups.

Praying is a dangerous thing.

You just might get what you ask for.

Remember, you called **ME** -- and here I am.

It's too late to stop now.

Keep praying. (Pause ....)

Well, go on.

I'm scared to.

**Scared? Scared of what?**

I know what you'll say.

**Try ME.**

“Forgive us our trespasses, **as we forgive those** ...who trespass against us.”

*What about Ann?*

*See? I knew it!*

*I knew you would bring her up!*

*Why, Lord, she's told lies about me, spread stories.*

*She never paid back the money she owes me.*

*I've sworn to get even with her!*

*But -- your prayer --*

*What about your prayer?—you know —about ‘trespasses?’*

*I didn't -- mean it...*

*Well, at least you're honest.*

*But, it's quite a load, carrying around all that bitterness and resentment, isn't it?*

*Yes, but I'll feel better as soon as I get even with her.*

*Boy, do I have some plans for her.*

*She'll wish she had never been born.*

*No, you won't ...feel any better.*

*You'll feel worse.*

*Revenge isn't ...sweet.*

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*You know how unhappy you are?*

*Well, I can change all that.*

*You can? How?*

*Forgive Ann.*

*Then, I'll forgive you; and the hate and the sin...*

*will all be Ann's problem -- not yours.*

*You will have settled the problem ...as far as you're concerned.*

*Oh, you know ...you're right.*

*You always are.*

*And more than I want revenge,*

*I want to be ‘right’ with You... <sup>(sigh)</sup>.*

*All right, all right. I ...forgive ...Ann!*

*There now... wonderful!*

*How do you feel?*

*Hmmmm. Well, not bad. Not bad... at all!*

*In fact ...I feel pretty great!*

*You know, I don't think I'll go to bed uptight tonight.*

*I haven't been getting much rest, you know.*

*Yeah, I know.*

*But, you're not through with your prayer, are you?*

*Go on.*

*Oh, all right.*

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

*Good! Good! I'll do that.*

*Just don't, willingly, put yourself in a place where you can be tempted.*

*What do you mean by that?*

***You know what I mean!***

*Yeah. I know.*

*Okay.*  
*Go ahead. Finish your prayer...the 'Protestant part' ...you say at Mass.*

*Oh, yeah.*  
*"For Thine is the kingdom,*  
*and the power,*  
*and the glory forever."*

*Do you know what would bring me glory --?*  
*What would really make me happy?*

*No.*  
*But I'd like to know.*  
*I want to please you now.*  
*I've really made a mess of things.*  
*I want to truly ...follow you.*  
*I can see, now, how great that would be.*  
*So, tell me . . .*  
*How do I make you happy?*

***You just did!***

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*May Our Father, "Who art in heaven," our Abba,*  
*bless you...the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*