



November Sermon Series: Dangerous Prayers

Message #3: Lead Me

Getting the Nod

Video: [Kiirsten Truex](#)

Praise the Lord for God leading one of our own... Kiirsten Truex... to the work of missions!!!

And this is not the last time we will hear of God's lead in her life. There are big plans coming soon... and I will leave that to her and the Outreach Department to inform us when the appropriate time comes.

You know... Kiirsten is right, praying the prayer "Lead Me" can be scary. It is a dangerous prayer! The uncertainty... the waiting... the cost... the destination... the task... the sacrifice and burden for people and the lost... yes, it can be very scary. It is a prayer that places us on the frontlines of God's will, God's Great Commission, and God's Great Commandment!

But what I am afraid of is the prayer being prayed on the opposite side of this coin. I'm afraid that some believers are asking God to...

- Bless them, but not mess with them.
- Fix their eternity, but not their morality.
- Save their marriage, but not their soul.
- Serve them, but not to serve others.

But God has so much more than that and wants much more than that for our lives!!!

Transition: I'm reminded of something God told His people in Deuteronomy 2:2-3...

Connecting Us

NLT | Dt 2:2 "Then at last the LORD said to me (Moses), 3 'You have been wandering around in this hill country long enough; turn to the north.

What was God telling Moses?

- My people have been in a holding pattern long enough! Get on with it.
- My purpose is larger than the comfort of my people... deal with it.
- My future for my people will forever change the direction of history... own it!

Application: Opportunity is knocking on the door again, can you hear it? Whatever your age is it's just a number, and unlike the world who associates numbers with our lives for everything, you are so much more than the number to God! **It's time to answer the door, today is somebodies, someday!**

No matter what story the accuser has told you, for some of you... its time to set a new course and a new plan of action to the abundant waiting life God has always had for you! It's time to dream again!!!

Illustration of Albert Einstein's Dream: In 1905 Albert Einstein stunned the world with his revolutionary equation, $E = mc^2$. Einstein wrote hundreds of papers over the course of his career. But this provocative equation, printed in one of his Annus Mirabilis papers, wasn't something he

just stumbled upon by chance. It was the culmination of years of research, an insatiable curiosity about the universe, and a deep love of science.

When Einstein was a small boy, his father gave him a compass. Albert was mesmerized by the power that seemed to emanate from within the magnetic pull of the compass. He would write years later, "I can still remember ... that this experience made a deep and lasting impression on me. Something deeply hidden had to be behind things." As a teenager, the intrigue and wonder of physics crept into Albert's dreams. One night, he dreamed he was sledding down a hill faster and faster, until he approached the speed of light. The stars radiated a broad spectrum of colors. He was entranced. When he awoke, he knew he had to understand the dream. In, later years he said that his entire scientific career was a meditation on that dream. (Mark Batterson and Richard Foth, *A Trip Around the Sun* (Baker Books, 2015), page 78)

The question for the day is this, **“What is the dream that God has put in your heart?” If you don’t have one... then I suggest that you ask the Lord for one. You need to pray the prayer, “LEAD ME!”**

It’s a Prayer that Asks For...

- An understanding of the big picture. (What’s really at stake? Are sinners actually lost?)
- Clarity in how we each fit into that big picture. (Where can God use me?)
- A true picture of brokenness and darkness in this world. (We are not supposed to be scared!)
- A chance to see behind the spiritual curtain into what God is orchestrating!

Transition: Praying the dangerous prayer LEAD ME is meant to establish these things from Jeremiah 29:11-13...

What’s God’s Take on This?

NKJV | Je 29:11-13 **For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.**

Background: These verses are contained in a letter that Jeremiah wrote to all those Jews carried away by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon. But even in their darkest hour, God is speaking through Jeremiah to assure them that they have a better future. Someday they will be set free and will prosper! It’s a message that can apply to us today...

This Dangerous Prayer Acknowledges:

1. God has a better plan than I do. (vs. 11)

- a. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.**
- b. The Hebrew word for “thoughts” is *machashabah* and it means that God has devised a plan and purpose... that He has invented it just for you.**
- c. And that plan is a complete plan. The word for peace is the familiar word *shalom* which not only means peace... but perfect and complete.**
- d. And the Hebrew word for “hope” is *tiqvaw* which can explained by this phrase, “The thing that I long for.”**

- e. **Application:** God can lead us into a plan that He created just for us; that is perfect and complete; and if you could see it, you would long for it.
- f. **Illustration of Holden Beach and the Shrimp Bridge:** Cresting the bridge I compulsively blurted out, "I want to live here!!!!" It was so beautiful and striking that my concept of geographic beauty had been adjusted. It changed my expectation of future vacations! **God wants to change our expectation of our lives!!!**

2. The first place He leads us is to Himself. (vs. 12)

- a. **Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.**
- b. The word for "Call upon me" means to "cry out". It symbolizes someone who sees the potential destination and knows that it will never be realized unless God takes you there.
- c. **Application: God wants your hunger for more to lead you to Him!!!**
- d. **Elijah stood before 450 Baal (Pagan) Prophets and knew what was going to happen...** but it was his prayer to God and a dependency on God alone brought down the fire!!! Not his charismatic personality or his leadership quotient. It was God and God alone!! **The prayer Lead Me... is a prayer of proximity to Jesus!!**

3. I must trust the one Who has saved me. (vs. 13a)

- a. **And you will seek Me and find Me...**
- b. **When you pray LEAD ME,** it will only take you as far as you trust Him. In verse 13, God makes a statement of confidence... **YOU WILL FIND ME!!!!**
- c. **Application:** If God sent His only loved and begotten Son to leave the perfection of a perfect heaven; become a human to live and die at the supervision of the betraying Pharisees; go all the way to hell to take back the stolen keys from Satan; **be resurrected and leave us with His Holy Spirit to win victoriously; and is now sitting at the right hand of God praying for us... DON'T YOU THINK YOU CAN TRUST HIM WITH HIS PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE?????**
- d. **Quote by Spurgeon:** Charles Spurgeon writes: "There is One who cares for you. His eye is fixed on you, His heart beats with pity for your woe, and His omnipotent hand shall bring you the needed help. The darkest cloud shall scatter itself in showers of mercy. He, if you are one of His family, will bind up your wounds and heal your broken heart. Do not doubt His grace because of your tribulation but believe that He loves you as much in seasons of trouble as in times of happiness. If God cares for you, why do you need to care too? Can you trust Him for your soul and not your body? He has never refused to bear your burdens; He has never fainted under their weight. Come, then, soul! Say good-bye to anxiety and leave all your concerns in the hand of a gracious God." **When you pray LEAD ME... God can be trusted!!!!** (From a sermon by Ryan Akers "Show Me The Money?" 1/19/2009)

4. No matter where He leads us, it will be to serve.

- a. **Application: We weren't saved to sit. We weren't saved to be selfish.** We have been bought with a price of Divine Blood... and now we are no longer serving ourselves... we are serving the One who made the cross his love letter... and an empty tomb his validation promise for eternal life.
- b. NLT | Mt 20:27 **and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave.**

These are the things that we acknowledge as we pray the dangerous prayer... LEAD ME.

Transition: Let's close with a look at Proverbs 3:1-6 and see what a lead me prayer looks like...

Takeaways

What a Lead Me Prayer Looks Like...

NKJV | Proverbs 3:1-6 My son, **do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands;** 2 For length of days and long life and peace they will add to you. 3 **Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart,** 4 **And so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man.** 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

1. **A Landmark Prayer.** "Lead me in living your truth." (Never to forget)

- ...do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands...

2. **An Outreaching Prayer.** "Lead me so the world may see you through me."

- Let not mercy and truth forsake you...

3. **A Compassionate Prayer.** "Lead me where your love may flow through me."

- And so, find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man.

4. **An Overcoming Prayer.** "Lead me to keep me from temptation."

- NKJV | Mt 6:13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one...

5. **A Worshipping Prayer.** "Lead me so my life will bring honor and glory to your name."

- NLT | Heb 2:12 For he said to God, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters. I will praise you among your assembled people."

Transition: Let me tell you a story of a lady driving in a snow storm...

Drawing the Net

Final Illustration: I heard the story of the woman driving through a snowstorm just outside of Denver. She was completely lost and struggling under the hazardous weather conditions. She was relieved when she happened upon a snowplow. Since she was lost, she decided to follow the truck and kept as close to the machine as she could while it removed snow from the road. At times the blowing snow almost cut off her view, but she kept following it. After some time, the snowplow stopped, and the driver got out and came back to her car. "Lady, where are you going?" he asked. "I'm on my way to Denver." she replied. The truck driver replied, "Well, you'll never get there following me! I'm plowing a parking lot!" Devising our own plan may have purpose... but has no guarantees. The only complete, perfect, and created plan... made just for you... is found in God.

It may be dangerous... but God honors dangerous and courageous prayers. What's your dream?