

**Sermon Notes:**  
**Lord's Prayer: "Heaven Later and Now"**  
**January 20, 2013**  
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**1. Prayer Always Works – IF!! . . . we understand it correctly:**

*Prayer, like a phone or Facebook, is about Connecting more than Asking, and always "connects us in relationship to God"*

**2. Prayer that Connects also "asks" – but what for?**

*50% of Jesus' "requests" in the Lord's Prayer are not about us, but about God (the dominant word is not "my" but "thy")*

**3. Heaven is important to Jesus, but in the Lord's Prayer**

*Jesus doesn't teach us to ask God to get us to heaven, but to ask God for heaven to come down to earth*

**4. The Bible contains images of heaven and summaries of God's will**

*That are perfectly fulfilled **when we die** and that we are called to make real on earth **now***

*Exodus 20: The Ten Commandments;*

*Matthew 5-7: The Sermon on the Mount*

*Micah 4; Isaiah 2: . . . see Martin Luther King's Speech*

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**Biblical Allusions in "I Have a Dream"**

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/79494374/Biblical-Allusions-in-I-Have-a-Dream>

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation . . . It came as the joyous daybreak [echo of 2 Peter 1:19, and Psalm 30:5) to end the long night of captivity [cf. Egyptian and Babylonian captivities]

...Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley [echo of Ps. 23] of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice.

Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock [Ps. 40] of brotherhood [1Pet. 2:17, etc.].

Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children [Matt. 5:9]....

The whirlwinds [echo of Zech. 9:14, etc.] of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges [hint of Isa.62:1, etc.]....

Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst [echo of Jer. 2:13,25, etc.]

for freedom by drinking from the cup [echo of Rev. 8:11,16:19, etc.] of bitterness and hatred.

No, no, we are not satisfied and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like the waters of righteousness like a mighty stream [Amos 5:24].

... I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations [Rev. 7:14]

... Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering [1 Pet. 3:14,17] is redemptive

.... I say to you today, my friends, even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream ... I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created [Gen. 1:27] equal.

"... I have a dream that one day down in Alabama ... little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers [James 2:15, etc.].

I have a dream that one day *every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together* [Isa. 40].

... This is our hope. ... With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day [hint of John 8:32].

... This will be the day when all of God's children [Matt. 5:9, etc.] will be able to sing with new meaning: "My country 'tis of thee, / Sweet land of liberty, [hint of Lev.25:10, etc.]/Of thee I sing

..."From every mountainside, let freedom ring. And when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village, from every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands [echo of Gal. 3:28] (and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: "Free at last! Free at last! thank God almighty, we are free at last!