



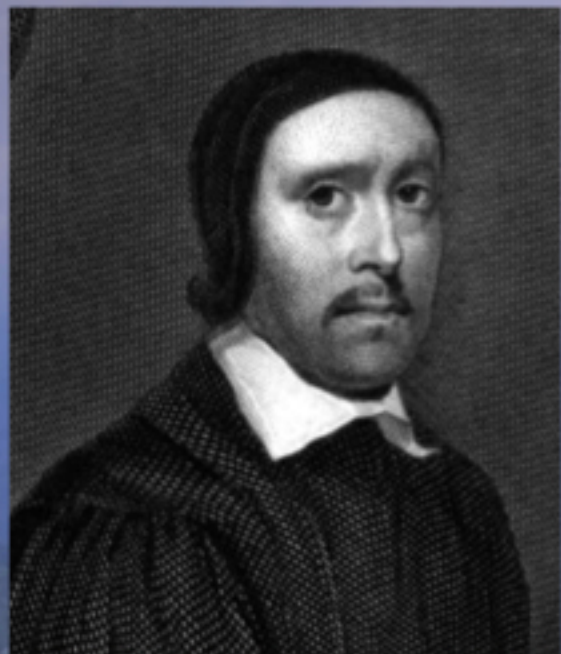
THE HIGHEST GOOD

a series in the Sermon on the Mount

“a sacred anchor”

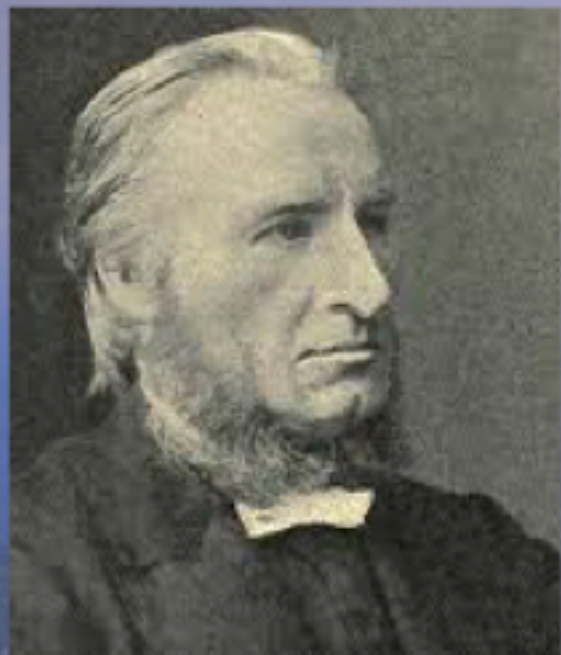
When you pray . . .

v. 1



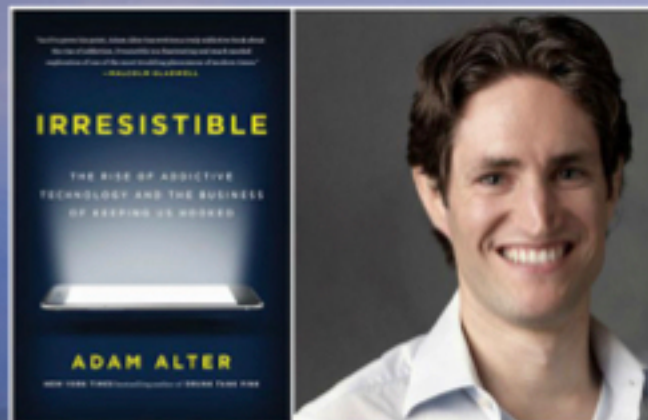
Jeremy Taylor (d. 1667)

*So weary are we of the duty, so
glad are we to have it over, and
so witty are we to find an
excuse to evade it.*



*"It Is Sometimes So With Me
That I Will Rather Die Than
Pray"*

Jeremy Taylor (d. 1921)



In 2000, Microsoft Canada reported that the average human had an attention span of twelve seconds; by 2013 that number had fallen to eight seconds. (According to Microsoft, a goldfish, by comparison, has an average attention span of nine seconds.)

*...do not heap up empty phrases as the
Gentiles do, for they think that they will be
heard for their many words.*

v. 7



George MacDonald

But if God is so good as you represent Him, and if He knows all that we need, and better far than we do ourselves, why should it be necessary to ask Him for anything?"



George MacDonald

I answer, "What if He knows prayer to be the thing we need first and most? What if the main object in God's idea of prayer be the supplying of our great, our endless need - the need of Himself?"



George MacDonald

Hunger may drive the runaway child home, and he may or may not be fed at once, but he needs his mother more than his dinner. Communion with God is the one need of the soul beyond all other need: prayer is the beginning of that communion

*Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your
name*

v. 9

Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 9:23-25

*Your kingdom come, your will be done, on
earth as it is in heaven*

v. 10



When the time is ripe for it and the ten thousand circlings are nearly at an end, we will tear the sky curtain and Deep Heaven shall become familiar to the eyes of our sons as the trees and the waves to ours.



Will that be the end?"



Who spoke of an end? . . . Your thoughts are unlike ours. About that time we shall be not far from the beginning of all things.

14 DEAD IN CALIFORNIA MASS SHOOTING



Ted Cruz

@tedcruz

Our **prayers** are with the victims, their families, and the first responders in San Bernardino...



Lindsey Graham

@LindseyGrahamSC

Thoughts & **prayers** are with #SanBernardino



Dr. Rand Paul

@RandPaul

My thoughts and **prayers** are with the victims, families, and brave first responders...



Paul Ryan

@SpeakerRyan

Please keep the victims of #SanBernardino, California in your **prayers**.

**GOD
ISN'T
FIXING
THIS**

As latest batch of **innocent Americans** are left lying in pools of blood, **cowards** who could truly **end gun scourge** continue to hide behind meaningless **platitudes**

PAGES 2-9



THE HIGHEST GOOD
a series in the Sermon on the Mount



Alan Jacobs

. . . prayer ought to be the fuel of the spirit, the fuel that gives us the strength and the hope that alone can sustain work for justice and peace. “Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace — make me an instrument. Set me to work. In these dark days let me at least light a candle

Give us this day our daily bread

v. 11

Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors

v. 12



Anne Lamott

*Earth is Forgiveness School.
You might as well start at the
dinner table. That way, you can
do this work in comfortable
pants.*

Give us this day our daily bread

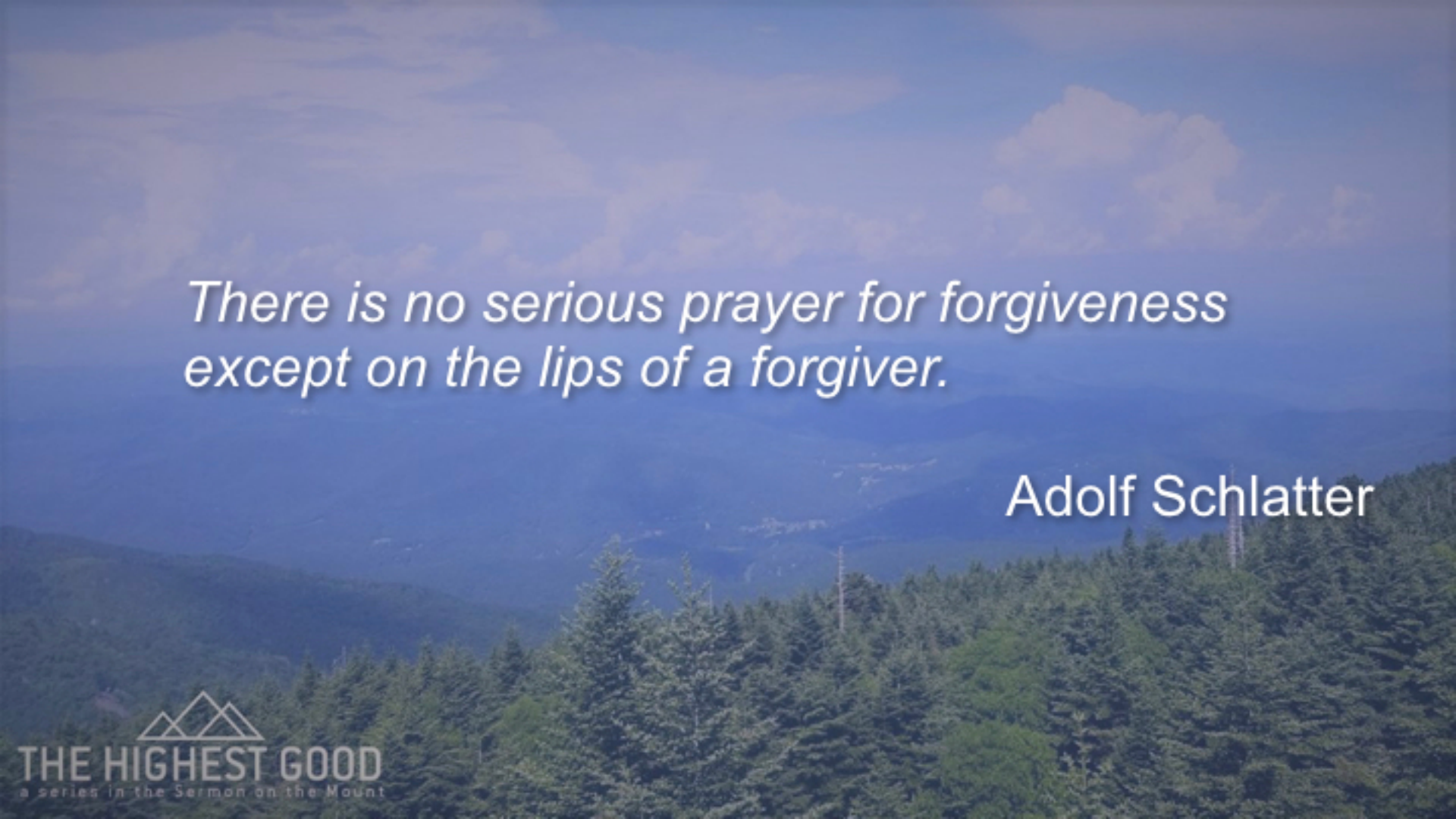
v. 11

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil*

v.13

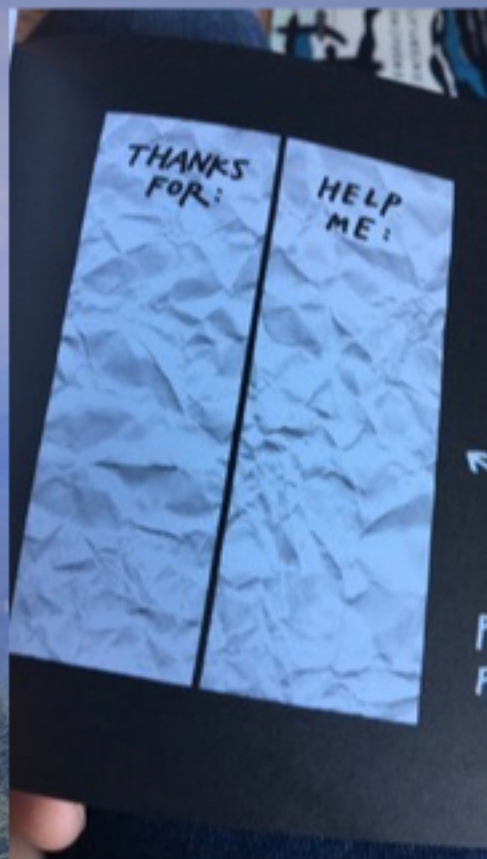
for if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

vv. 14-15



*There is no serious prayer for forgiveness
except on the lips of a forgiver.*

Adolf Schlatter



From *Keep Going*, Austin Kleon

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil*

v.13