

CNL Season 2009
7.1 Adonai part 1
Transcription

Father, we pray a blessing upon this time. Open our eyes and our ears and our minds to understand your Word. May we just let go of whatever has passed and not worry about the future but give this time to you. We pray these things in Jesus' Name and God's people said, "Amen and Amen"

Adonai. Can you say Adonai? Adonai. Say it one more time Adonai. Adonai. Adonai is the word for Lord. Now you have seen another word for Lord in your Bible and it is LORD. That is the Hebrew word that we translate that "Jehovah". Can you say Jehovah? Jehovah. Whenever you see all capital LORD in your Bible that means that in the Hebrew that word was Jehovah which deals with Almighty God, but when you capitalize the "L" and little "o-r-d" that is the word Adonai in many instances. Now, this means master. Now, the reason that it is important is that you are going to find today that we have studied Jehovah Jireh, the provider. Jireh means provider. Can you say Jireh the provider? We want to memorize all these words. Jireh means provider. El Shaddai is the almighty, the all sufficient one. Do you remember what the name for the healer is? Rapha. Say Rapha means healer. Now, we have seen all these words which deal with what God has as attributes that he gives and bless us with. Today, I want to shift the tables on you just a little and when we use the word Adonai which means master, you are actually by stating the word Adonai declaring not just what He is and who He is but you are actually stating who you are because if He is our master, that means we are His servants and a servant obeys. So, when you pray Dear Lord, you are saying Dear Master which means I am

about to talk to you and whatever you tell me to do I am going to obey. IN other words it is obligating us in our relationship to Him. There are two words in Greek. One is despotis for the word Master or Lord. That is where we get the word despot from. A despot is a kind of a dictator. Then, there is another Greek word. Do you know what the other Greek word is for Lord? Kurios. If you are curious about Kurios it will be easy to remember that way. Now, I will tell you how it is easy to remember Adonai. I tell you I am convinced that the best way to remember Adonai is often what we say when God as master tells us what to do. We don't always say Adonai, we say I don't know. How many times when God says, "Okay, this is what I want you to do. Child, I want you to do this and follow the Word of God here." We say, "I don't know." What we are supposed to say is "Adonai", which means "Master, I will obey

If you ever find yourself not obeying the master, you are probably saying "I don't know" rather than "Adonai". So, let's make sure that we say "Adonai" which means, "You're the Master", but also obligates us as servants.

Now, when we say the word master and slave. We, in our culture have a very specific history that says to us, we kind of wince at the word master. We don't like that concept. Let me share with you that tin the Middle East, a proper master, especially in a Jewish home was one who had a servant. In fact many of the slaves captured by Israelites, when they were released after a certain period would want to stay in that household as dulos, or bond slaves. They actually wanted a dowel put through their ear to identify that they were voluntarily staying there. You know why? Because unlike the world's masters which were cruel and owned property, that's

all they thought of slaves, the word used here is one where God simply says, "I want to be the master because I want to be the authority to bless you so that I can guide you where it is best."

Now, you all stick with me on this. It is extremely important. The concept of the slave or a servant is supposed to be one where we see the master because the master teacher is directing us where best to go because he knows better than we do. So, it is a relationship. It is very precious. It is not an evil or cruel relationship of master and slave. It is a very precious relationship. So, if you could start off by simply writing in Master means relationship. It is point number one. Master means relationship. When a coach tells the athlete what to do, he is not being mean but if he is a professional. I remember years ago. We had a cross-country coach and there was a guy who was a wonderful runner at the Stone brook for Boys School that I went to and this guy flailed his arms. He was amazingly fast, but he kind of flailed his arms when he ran. Coach Goldberg had to discipline him not to flail his arms and the guy said, "I feel like I am running faster that way." The coach said, "Oh no, you are wasting energy. You are wasting motion." He disciplined him over a period of a year and the guy cut off several seconds from his record because he learned to discipline his arms. Now, the coach was not saying, "Stop flailing your arms because I don't want you to have fun in life." He was saying stop flailing your arms because it is not best for you. I know what's best. Sure enough, he did better as a runner.

I brought an example here. If you were in my house as one of my children and you were to come and say, Ok, I'm going to listen to this video and watch this video. And you were to walk up with this busted up thing and try to put this in the play. If you were my child, I would probably

stop you. Why? Because I'm a cruel father? That's beside the point. Is it because I'm a cruel father? No. It is because I know that this is not going to work. So, as the child tries to stick it in there, there are a couple of problems, First of all, my child likes this video. Actually, we just bought this videotape Anastasia. It is a wonderful thing; it has great music and stuff. If they are trying to stick this tape in and I have Anastasia. I would say, No, no put the Anastasia tape in. You'll like it. The child says, but daddy I want to put this in.

No, no, put the Anastasia tape in.

I'm just stopping him because the tape is not going to work well. It is because it will also probably ruin the tape player and he will not get to watch any of the videos. So, am I being the master of my household by stopping him because I am mean or is it because I really love him and I care about what happens. It is because I love him. Then, I give him this tape. He pops it in and suddenly there is a beautiful picture. Well let me share with you. God, many times when he says, "I Am Master. You need to obey." It is not because He wants to be our dictator, but it is because He is saying what you are about to play in your life is not good. Not only is not going to play well and God says, I happen to be God and have had billion experiences to relate to. Trust me, it just never works out.

He is not only saying that, but He is saying you might damage or harm even further, what you really want to be a blessing. So, He takes this from our hand and He hands us what will create a beautiful picture. Now, either we obey or we disobey as far as what we are playing, but He does give that opportunity to us. In my household, if the child still argues, I do become the master of the household and simply take it from him and say, you will place this other. But it is

preferable. It is kind of like God. There is a verse that says, "Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord."

Do you know that verse? Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord of all. Remember that song? It is a powerful song. Well, it is a powerful verse, too, in Philippians Chapter two. You can do it voluntarily or not. You can say, Well I'm not going to accept this religion. My wife brought me here today or my husband brought me here today. Yeah, I'm just going to sit through this preacher. Okay. Dallas, 12 o'clock, 15 minutes and the Cowboys are going to begin to play football and hopefully make some points when they do it.

So, you are thinking, I can't wait to get out of this church. I don't have to believe this god stuff. Let me share something with you that is very interesting. You can pay Him now or you can pay Him later. You can bow your knees now or you can bow your knee later, but you will bow your knee. Whether you like to or not. Whether you volunteer. No matter how strong you are or how strong-willed you are. The day is going to come when your knee will bow. Now, if it is at the judgment, God will bow your knee but it won't then produce eternal life. He will simply bow your knee and then you will be condemned to eternal death. If you do it on this side of the equation of life and death, when you bow your knee He gives you life and it is kind of like He is smiling. Have you ever seen a dad who says, "No, honey do it this way with a smile on his face. It is finally, "Do it this way." It is really better when he is smiling. It is just a lot more fun because God is eventually going to say, "Don't stick that in the tape player." What we want is to live our lives with the smile of God because we will obey Him eventually but what we want to do is obey when He has that smile on His face when He is directing us because I am going to tell

you, He is going to give us back blessings untold as long as we do it in obedience. So, we are going to see that today in this study. It is kind of fun.

Let's read Philippians 2:10, first of all. Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

I mentioned the oil from filter ad before. Remember the oil fram filter. He has an oil fram filter and it is \$15 and then behind him in the ad there is an engine being taken out of the car and that is a \$1,000 repair because the engine is all messed up because the filter was not changed and the guy in the ad used it to point to and say, "You can pay me now or you can pay me later but you are going to have to deal with the issue." God wants us to do the fram oil filter level of payment. It is minimal. Not later. So, it says that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess. God is saying, "Let me have a relationship with you where you bow joyfully but it is going to be inevitable." How many of you heard Mike Tuley last week? I see Mike's wife. Is Mike here? He does not come to church here very often but he is a great guy (Laughs) He is a blessing. You tell that man of yours that I have been so blessed that he got to be in this pulpit. His wife will probably remember this story. He tells about when he dated a girl in high school. He wanted to date this girl in high school. A really cute girl that he met and he went up to her every day and he said, would you go out with me would you go out with me, would you go out with me? And every day she says "No, no, no. Mike, I don't want to go out with you. Well, week after week, she says "You have to stop, Mike. Quit asking me out and he says, look it is inevitable. You are going to go out with me. I am going to ask every single day until you go out with me. You will go out with me. It is inevitable. It is like this, "Every knee will bow, every

tongue will confess. He said, it is inevitable. So, finally she called the police and had him arrested for stalking, but besides that, it was one of those. Please, let me know that I told that story. By the way, it is not true. He wasn't arrested for stalking.

It is one of those things where there is inevitability. Once you yield yourself to the inevitability of who God is, you begin to sense a joy and a connection with your creator that you have never had before. He is almighty.

I praise God that He is the authority. Why do we need the word Master for God? Because there are so many things that we would not do if He did not direct us to do them. Let's be honest.

I remember when I was a little boy. This is an absolutely fully true story. I lived in Kerrville, Texas. I remember the first day that my mother wanted me to eat fried okra. I like fried okra because it is kind of crunchy and dry, but she served it in another style. It is kind of like mucous. You know what I am saying? Do you know what I am talking about? It is like really gooey. It is like it has little eyes staring back at you in the little circles and it is really disgusting. I remember when she dipped into that bowl and put it on my plate like that as she picked up the spoon, it had those little strings. To a child, this is like totally disgusting. Every mucous thing you have ever seen in your life you connect to it. She says, "Peter, you love okra. Trust me. It is good for you and you are going to love it. I love okra. Daddy loves okra. You are going to love okra.

All I could do was stare at it. Because it is so mucous, it continues to move on your plate. It never seems to settle anywhere. You know. I am looking at this and I am thinking, you have got to be kidding me.

On the plate was also a piece of chicken and on the left side, there was one of these large rolls my mom used to make. These great big rolls. I had already cut in half and was kind of eating the bread out of the middle, the soft part. It had become like a little container there. I realized that my mom was talking and stuff and I realized that she was not looking so I took a scoop of that okra and put it in the opening of the roll. She didn't notice. I just kept scooping that in there. Well, pretty soon there was no okra showing on the plate at all. It was great. It was all inside the roll. My mother looked over and said, Oh Peter. The okra is all done. Did you enjoy it? Did you eat it all? I knew by now in my household that the velocity of my father's belt could move beyond the speed of light. It was extremely damaging and painful so I knew better than to lie to her, but I said, Isn't it great? It is all gone. That was kind of a lawyer's way of answering the question.

She said, "Well great."

What I did not realize and had not really noticed. Have you ever seen how snails, when they crawl across a plant, they leave this shiny, mucous-like, stringy-like deal on the plant? Well, when you scoop okra anywhere, it leaves these little stringy trails behind it and so there were like these little spider webs going through the plate up into the roll so my mom was pretty bright so she said, Oh that is good. You go ahead and finish your roll before you get up from dinner.

I said, Mom I'm really full. I don't want..."

She said, No, baby I insist.

So, of course she was fully aware of what was going on so she set there and I said, “Well, can I get up now?”

She said, no. When you finish your roll you can get up.

It took 40 minutes or whatever, but I went ahead, picked that roll up and bit into it. After a couple of bites, it became quite obvious. This thick mucus stuff was like sliding down my chin and I was going through whatever kids do (gagging). You know what I am talking about. You who have children know what I am talking about. They say, “I can’t eat (gag) I can’t eat (gag).

You give it out of mercy, but my mom would say, Buddy you will eat it the first, second, third time. You will hold it down.

So, anyway just to cut to the chase. The bottom line was that as I ate that okra, I learned as years went by to love okra. Can’t stand rolls, but I love okra. I love okra. It is good for me, but I am going to tell you something, I would never have touched it if authority had not said, you are going to eat it whether you want to or not. That is why you praise God as master because he does know what is best for you. Some of this stuff looks like okra to you that God says in the Word of God. I mean come on; we are like “Whoa, no way.”

You know, love one another. Forgive your neighbor. You know those who have sinned against you, forgive them. Go confess your faults to one another. Whoa!!! Okra, okra, okra and there is okra all over the Bible, but you know why God says to do it? He knows that on the other side of that okra is blessing. There is a joy but you would never do it on your own you would not

volunteer to eat that okra so today, as we look at God's Word. Praise the Lord! He is authority that he makes us do at times what we don't want to do but he blessings always come back.

That leads us t Adonai.

Would fill in #2, Adonai mans do what I say. Obey. I will tell you something though. To reverse that, it also means when you say "Adonai, Dear Lord" when you pray, you are saying, "Dear Lord, I am your servant. I will obey.

You are actually stating what you will do. Not just what His job is, but what your job is. In fact, by the end of this sermon, you are either going to say, "You know what, when I say the word Lord from now on" and by the way, it is most commonly used word for God or Jesus in our vernacular. The word Lord. The Lord this. The Lord that. We do that all the time. Before you say that word though from now on, as it is coming out of your lips, you are going to think of it totally differently and you will either begin to change the way you act or you will simply begin using the words "Dear Father" instead of "Lord". You will use some other word, but let me encourage you; tremendous amount of power because what it does is that it leads us inevitably to the word "Hinenii", "Here am I." When you say "Lord", you are actually saying "Here am I."

When you call your children in your house, you say "Hey kids." They yell what?" "Come down here. What? Come down here. Why? Because I need to talk to you. About what?

You know, you do this for 5 or 10 minutes. You finally end up yourself going upstairs right?

There is something wrong with the balance in this thinking and then some of us have children who when we go "Children", they run down and say "Yes Father what would you have me to do? You know what I am saying (laughs) Then I woke up and realized, "no."

“Hineni”, the “Hineni”, they mean, “Here am I”. Did you know that actually when you are praying your prayers at night and you say, “Dear Lord”, the word “Lord” when it comes out of your mouth or it is in your thoughts is actually saying, “I will now submit. Here am I. Use me. Whatever you tell me to do, Lord.

You are going to find that God says, “If you use that word, I expect something. Don’t use that word if you don’t mean it.” Jesus even said, “Don’t use that word if you don’t mean it.” Would you read Luke 6:46 under #2 with me, “And why do you call me, Lord, and do not do what I say?”

Do you see what He is saying? He is saying, “Why do you bother calling me Lord for? You don’t obey me.”

In other words, when you use the word Lord, it is like saying, “I’m going to obey you.”

Don’t walk up to me and say, “Hey boss! Can I have some time off?” If when the boss tells you what to do, you don’t obey him. Don’t use the word “boss” because if you thought of him as your boss you would obey him at work and do what he says to do at work.

God is saying; don’t call me Lord if you don’t submit to me. Use any other name in the vocabulary, but don’t call me Lord, because when you say Lord, you are saying I will obey.

Powerful words. Jesus said, “Don’t bother calling me Lord if you don’t do what I say.”

Look at Matthew 7. This is a very, very powerful passage. Let’s read it out loud together. “Not everyone who says to me, “lord, Lord’ will enter the kingdom of heaven but he who does the will of my Father in Heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy

in your name, and in your Name cast out demons and in your name perform many miracles' and then I will declare to them, I never knew you. Depart from me you who practice lawlessness."

That is a mind blowing verse. Since I was a kid and first came across it that freaked me out. What is that verse saying? There are going to be people at the judgment who are going to be saying, "I did miracles. I did prophesies in your name" and he says, "Get out of here. You are not one of mine." How can that be? Because folks what the word of God is showing here. Now, that does not mean that if you sin this week you are going to hell. You were not saved by works and by works you are not going to be lost. The word of God teaches clearly that if you were born again, truly regenerated, He holds you in the palm of His hand, but what it is showing is that there are going to be some people that their Christianity is only the five minutes in front of the crowd, you know what I mean? When you are around other Christians, you can do the most incredible things. You might be one of those impressive people. You can pray. You do it in King James. You know what I'm saying. When you pray, you don't even say "you", you say "Thou shalt" and you lower your voice. I mean when you pray, you are really impressive. When you are one of these guys who seem like you could cast out demons but if it is only for show in front of the crowd but when you walk away, it is not a 7/24 passion in your life, then Jesus is saying, "I don't know you."

I'm not looking for performers. You remember the Greek word hippokinates means "I'm not looking for actors."

I'm looking for passionate people who live it."

So, what we are looking at here is the consulate of Nazarus. He is not saying, like the servants, "Oh master whatever you want" and then they turn around and go disobey Him. That's not what God is looking for. Have you ever seen in these Hollywood movies where they make fun of themselves? You know somebody walks by and he is a producer and he says, "Hey man, beautiful in your last movie. Love you man. Let's do lunch. Let's do lunch." Then, he turns to somebody and says, "I can't stand that guy. He is a jerk." You ever see that, where it is double mindedness.

He is not looking for hippokinates, hypocrites, actors. He is looking for real believers, 7/24. It means the same thing to you at 9 o'clock in the morning when you are alone on your knees as it does when you are in front of a crowd of people. Your Christianity is not for show only. So, right now, we need to understand in our hearts, where is our passion. You know, this may sound silly but the fact that you are here and you are not going to see the first part of the Dallas game. If you are a Dallas fan that means that you are putting the Lord first. For those two guys over there that have the earpiece in. Hey, at least you are here. Thank you. (Laughing).

We are making a statement when we say the word "Lord". You know when you go to your boss and say, "Hey boss, can I get off early?" The reason that you use the word "boss" is because you are trying to emphasize to him that you know that he has the authority to let you off early. It is extremely important. If you go up to somebody and say, "Hey, you wacko, I heard you went sky diving."

Well, you are kind of connecting the word wacko with sky diving. If you

are a single guy and you want to impress a girl at work and you are kind of good friends with her and you have taken her out a couple of times, you walk up and say, "Hey gorgeous! Are you free tonight for dinner?" but if you mix up your adjectives and go up to her and use the wacko and say, "Hey wacko! Are you free for dinner?" It is probably going to mix up the message. What you are doing is you are mixing up your message if you go up and say, "Dear Lord" but you don't obey Him. You are mixing up your message. We are going to find a verse where actually God got furious because one of the great men of Scripture mixed up the message. He dared to use the word "Adonai" but he did not obey God. He misstated his cause. Next thing, if you will look at the next point... I'm going to have a little fun here. Don't be frustrated and say, "Yeah, but I sinned. Last week, I sinned as a Christian"

That does not mean. Jesus is not saying here that you are going to hell.

What He is saying is if you have a heart for the Lord, you have a passion for the Lord, you have a desire to serve the Lord. You may make mistakes, but if you are conscious and aware of the Lord, if you are listening for Him and listening to Him. You know the Lord. He wants you to grow in grace and knowledge. He is talking about the phonies that only give for show. I want you to look at this thing and that is why I said don't be frustrated because everybody has messed up. Even Moses was once a basket case. You know when he was a little baby he was (laughing). If I don't have one bad joke in here at least each sermon I am just not going to be able. You know, Lee Strobel, I think says it best. Lee Strobel tells of a time, true story. There were some people flew to India who read about how impoverished the

people of India were and a bunch of Christians got a tour together and they flew to India. Now, this is what they did. They landed and at the hotel they all changed and showered. It was air conditioned at the hotel. Then, they got on a tour bus that was air conditioned and they began to drive through New Delhi and all the areas in India where there is absolute poverty and the guide who was a Christian guide would be pointing and saying, "Over there. You see that area, that is slum area. The people they live in feted water with a 90% death rate among their children, that is where some Christians have gone and ministered."

Then, they would drive on and he would say, "Over here, this right here is a Christian organization out of New York that ministers here. These people are all lepers that live in this area and they ministered to these people year after year after year. It is an unbelievably impoverished area."

They would drive on day after day. They drove through India and from the air conditioned tour bus this guy pointed out all of this poverty and all these horrible things in India. Then, they got back on the plane and flew back home. Lee Strobel calls this tour bus Christianity. He says that God is not looking for tour bus Christianity. You could have watched that on a video at home. You did not have to fly all the way to India to do it. If you are going to fly to India, get out of the bus, reach out, and touch the people in need. Let them see Jesus because if all they see when you drive through their lives is a tour bus. Listen very carefully, if all they see is a tour bus, that tour bus as a Christianity will not change their lives. You are not going to affect the world by being a tour bus Christian. All they see is glass and metal rolling by making a lot of noise. God has called us to open the door, step in the

heat, and reach out and touch the needs of people. Tour bus Christianity is extremely dangerous because we as a culture have a tendency to sit back, put the clicker on and just watch what is going on and God says, "No, you have to get out."

It is hard to be at my church and be a tour bus Christian. I mean there are so many ministries here, single moms, or whatever it is for. So, many ministries that reach out that if you get involved in these ministries, that is why we have 140 ministries, you get caught on fire. You want to open the door. You want to be involved. You want to participate and that is what I love about this ministry, it is hard to be a tour bus Christian and keep coming here each week. However, this little tongue in cheek, if you would like to continue to stay lukewarm, mediocre, uninvolved, vanilla Christian, stagnant, partially devoted and only casually committed, I have three points as to how you can stay that way. It is a little tongue in cheek but it is basically the habits of an ineffective servant. How to stay lukewarm. First of all, if you want to be a partially devoted, stagnant, casually committed, disconnected Christian, be a creative editor. Fill in number one and I will tell you what a creative editor is, I remember as a child, a bunch of kids up in Kerrville, we were playing guns and war and all kinds of stuff and we came up to this fence that had a huge gate on it and it said, "Do not open this gate. Private property."

We analyzed that and we defined it. We said, well you know this is good news. It says do not open the gate, so technically if we crawl over the fence, we have not opened the gate and it says private property. That's good news because it means nobody will bother us when we are playing over there. So,

what we did was we edited what clearly was being said. Now, you are going to say that's silly but I am going to challenge you today, how many of you do that when you read the Word of God? When it comes to that part about forgiving your brothers or it is better to give than receive, or the lukewarm believers, I'm going to spit them out of my mouth. We come to certain verses and we go WHOA! Do you know what Thomas Jefferson did? This is true. Politically, a great man, a brilliant writer and everything else.

Thomas Jefferson was a deist but not a born again believer and he did not accept the parts of the Bible that dealt with blood sacrifice, that dealt with atonement, that dealt with the resurrection, that dealt with all of these characteristics. So, you know what he did? He went with a pair of scissors and he chopped out those verses out of the Bible. He then printed his own Bible. If you go to Monticello today, you can buy a Jefferson bible that had hundreds of verses taken out of it because Jefferson just did not like them. That's the Jefferson bible. All the issues that deal with redemption, salvation, hell, heaven, all of those things were taken out by Jefferson. He simply did not like them. Well, you can't do that folks. You can't write your own Bible. You cannot be a super editor. I tell you many of us are super editors. We come to verses that offend us. You know, love you wives as much as Christ loved the Church. Give your life for your wives gentleman. That just may make you wince. You love her but not that much. Concepts in the Word of God. You know, submission and authority. We just kind of wince at it. So, what we are doing is we are being super editors. So if you want to continue staying a partially devoted, stagnant, vanilla Christian, if you want to stay ineffective, be a creative editor.

