

Ojibwa Prayer

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light." (Matthew 11:28-30)



Ojibwa Prayer

Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds
and whose breath gives life to everyone,
hear me.

I come to you as one of your many children;
I am weak . . . I am small . . . I need your wisdom
and your strength.

Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes ever
behold the red and purple sunsets.

Make my hands respect the things you have made,
and make my ears sharp so that I may hear your voice.

Make me wise, so that I may understand what you
have taught my people and
the lessons you have hidden in each leaf and each rock.

I ask for wisdom and strength,
not to be superior to my brothers and sisters,
but to fight the greatest enemy, myself.

Make me ever ready to come before you with
clean hands
and a straight eye.

So as life fades away as a fading sunset,
my spirit may come to you without shame.

*(Adapted from American Indian Prayers and Poetry,
edited by J. Ed Sharpe [Cherokee, NC:
Cherokee Publications, 1985], page 1)*

What relationships do you see between the scriptural quote and the Ojibwa Prayer?