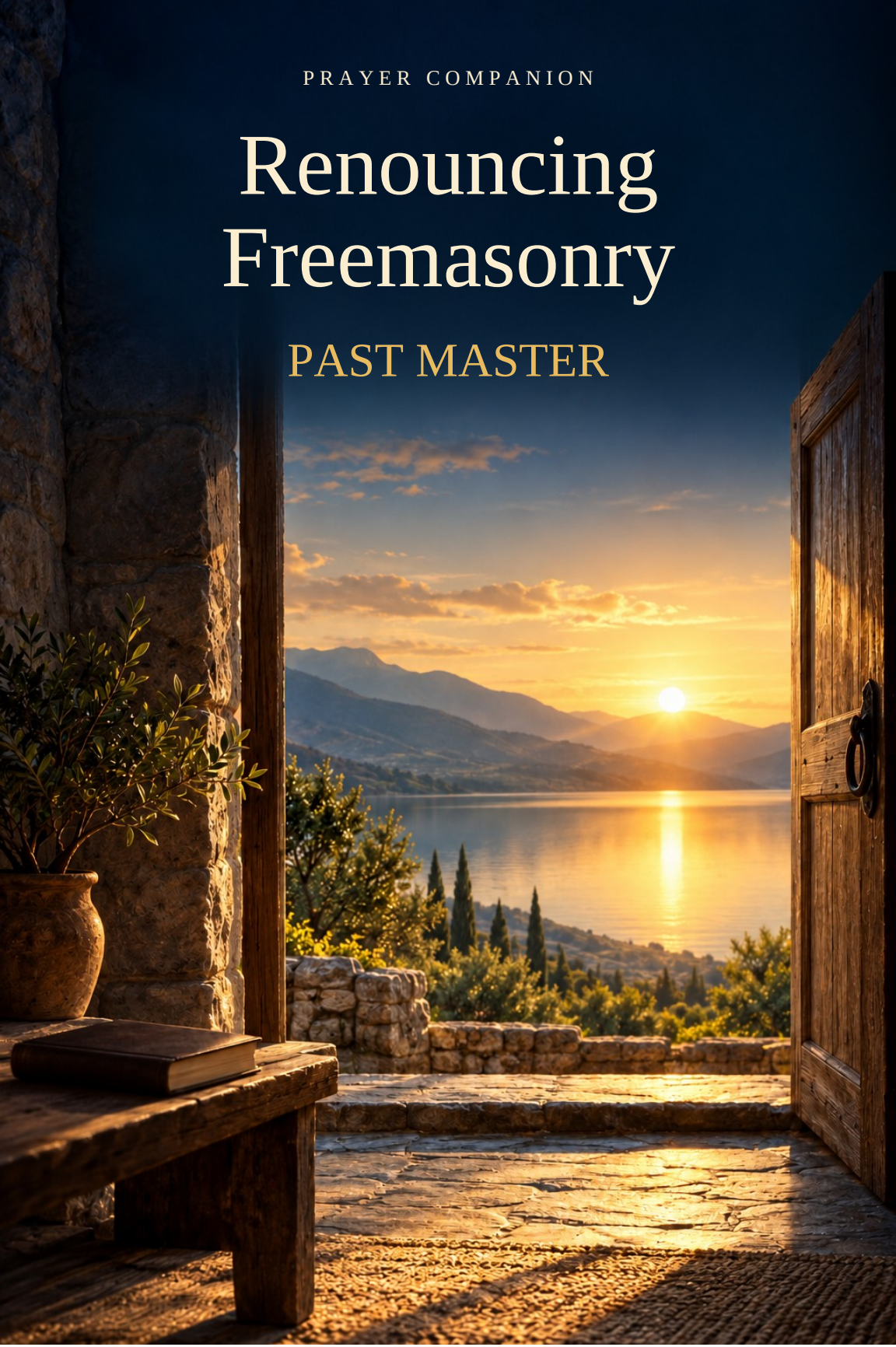
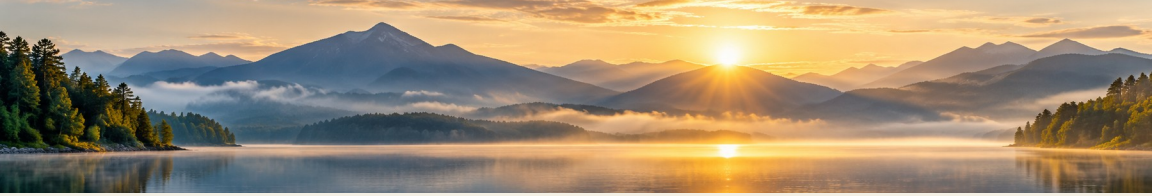


PRAYER COMPANION

Renouncing Freemasonry

PAST MASTER





Past Master

Prayer companion

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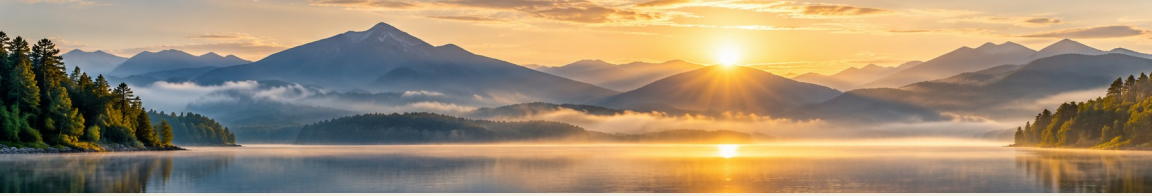
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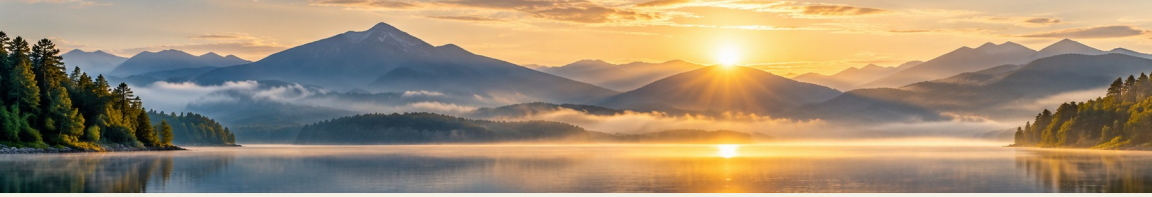
Before you pray

Read or listen to the whole prayer before choosing to repeat it. Use only words you understand and can honestly affirm. You may listen without repeating, pause at your own pace, or speak to God in your own words.

Keep this guide open during a later repeat-along reading. Take as much time as you need after each paragraph. The blank spaces are for your private notes; you do not need to share them.

Reflection before beginning

What choice is mine to address? What is troubling my conscience? What help would be useful?

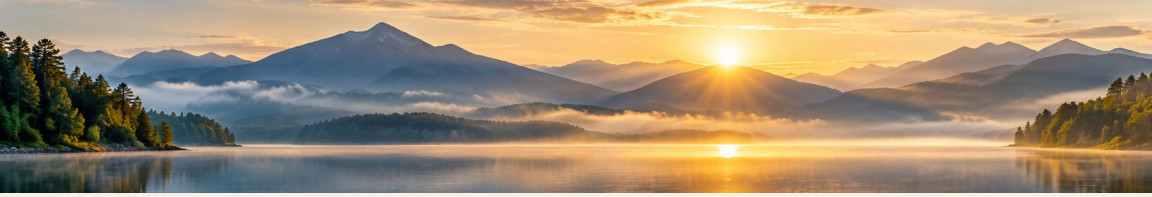


Guided teaching

Welcome. This teaching and prayer focuses on the Past Master degree within the Chapter sequence described by Malcolm Duncan. This historical degree should not be confused with every person's experience of having served as the actual Master of a lodge. Practices and terminology vary.

This resource is for someone who has participated in the degree and has decided to leave that involvement as an act of Christian conviction. We will consider authority, service, and accountability before we pray. Listen to the entire prayer first, and use only words you understand and mean.

Duncan's account connects this degree with preparation for presiding and leadership. It includes staged disagreements over business and the exercise of authority. We refer to those scenes as part of his ritual description. They do not prove that a particular person committed wrongdoing or that every present-day ceremony follows that account.



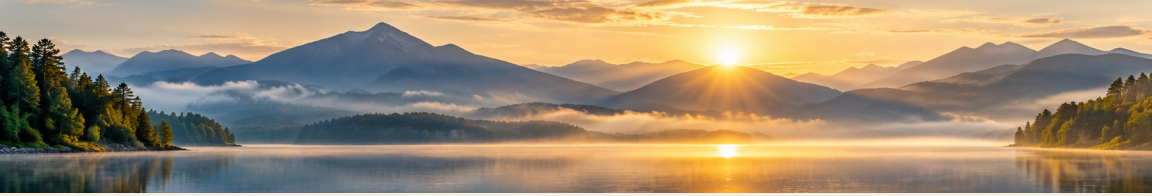
Guided teaching continued

Leadership gives us opportunities to help people. It can also expose our desire for control, recognition, or protection from criticism. A title alone cannot answer whether we have exercised responsibility faithfully. We need to examine our choices and the way those choices affected others.

In Mark chapter ten, James and John ask for places of honor in Jesus' glory. Jesus speaks to His disciples about rulers who dominate others and teaches them a different pattern: greatness expressed through service. He points to His own mission of serving and giving His life as a ransom for many.

This passage is about disciples learning to follow Jesus. It asks searching questions of anyone who has influence. Have I listened to people with less power? Have I used my position to avoid correction? Have I expected obedience where I should have offered an explanation or accepted a refusal?

First Peter chapter five addresses elders in the church. Peter tells them to care for the flock willingly and to lead by example rather than domineering. We should keep that specific setting in view. As a Christian application, we can examine whether our influence reflects humility, care, and accountability wherever we hold responsibility.



Guided teaching continued

You may never have held a formal office. These questions can still help you examine the influence you have at home, at work, or among friends. You may also have experienced pressure from someone else. Receiving pressure is not the same as choosing to exert it. Take responsibility for your own actions without claiming another person's wrongdoing as yours.

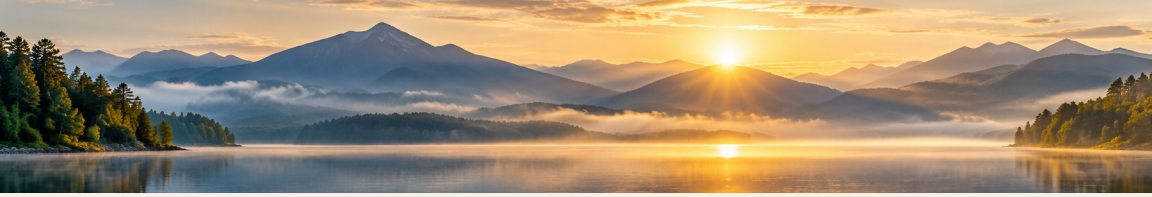
A decision to leave does not require a dramatic confrontation. You can communicate clearly, seek advice about remaining responsibilities, and refuse demands that conflict with your convictions. If you are concerned about threats or safety, seek appropriate help rather than handling the matter alone.

Be careful with the promises you make now. Repentance does not require a sweeping promise that you will never struggle again. Ask for grace to act faithfully, accept correction, and return to the truth when you fail. Let dependable conduct give substance to your words.

Consider one setting in which you need to practice servant leadership. Perhaps you need to ask a sincere question, apologize without defending yourself, share credit, or give someone room to disagree. Bring that specific responsibility before God.

Optional personal pause

You may pause here. Where have you misused influence, or allowed pressure to override your conscience? What response would be truthful and safe? If a question does not fit your experience, leave it aside. You do not need to invent a confession.



Prayer

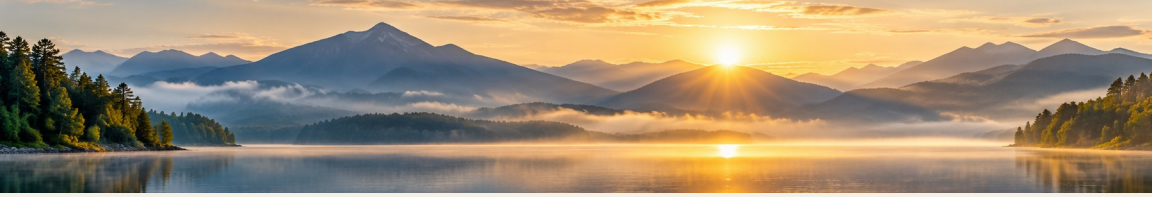
Father in heaven, I come through Jesus Christ. Thank You for Your mercy and patient instruction. Help me examine my use of influence honestly.

Lord Jesus, teach me Your way of service. Free me from the desire to be admired or obeyed at the expense of truth. Make me willing to listen and receive correction.

I bring before You my participation in this Past Master degree. I have decided to leave this involvement behind. Guide me in carrying out that decision clearly and responsibly.

Where I made commitments that conflicted with obedience to You, I repent and withdraw my consent. Where I used authority to excuse wrongdoing, forgive me. Show me what I need to stop and what I need to address.

Where I pressured others, refused fair criticism, or protected my reputation at their expense, change my conduct. Help me take responsibility without minimizing the effect of my choices.



Prayer continued

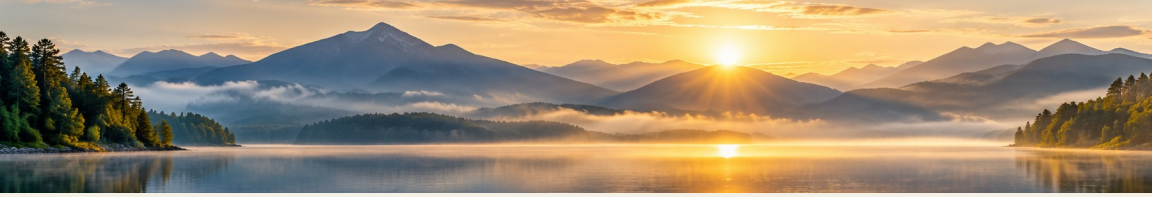
Give me courage when others pressure me. Help me keep wise boundaries, seek counsel, and decline what I should not do. Teach me to speak firmly without cruelty.

Keep me from claiming guilt for choices that were not mine. Help me distinguish my responsibility from another person's actions. Give me the support I need where trust has been damaged.

I submit myself to You. Strengthen me to resist pride, deception, and intimidation. Let Your truth guide my decisions when doing right feels costly.

Bless the people affected by my leadership and my decisions. Help me make appropriate repair where I have caused harm. Teach me to serve without demanding gratitude in return.

Lead me into healthy accountability and Christian fellowship. Give me patience to learn and courage to follow through. Let my influence become an expression of love. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



Reflection

1. What is my actual experience of this degree, distinct from an office I may have held?

2. How have I responded when someone challenged or corrected me?

3. What responsibility belongs to me, and what belongs to someone else?

4. What would servant leadership look like in one relationship this week?

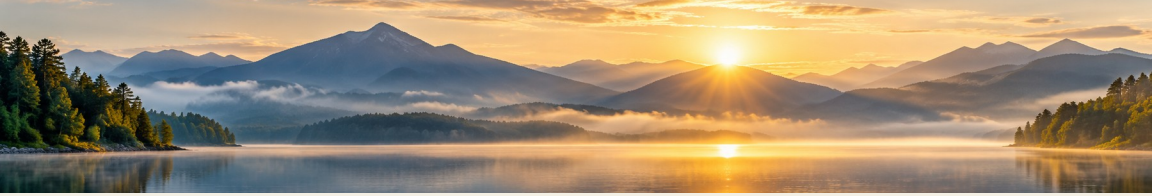


Next steps

Choose one practical response. You may need to document your withdrawal decision, resolve a legitimate responsibility, or seek advice about a difficult relationship. Take the step calmly and avoid accusations you cannot support.

Read Mark chapter ten, verses thirty-five through forty-five, and First Peter chapter five in context. Ask God to form the humility those passages describe. The next teaching considers Most Excellent Master, gratitude, dedication, and faithfulness after accomplishment.

Notes



Reading references

Historical context: Malcolm C. Duncan, *Duncan's Masonic Ritual and Monitor*, third edition (New York: Dick & Fitzgerald, 1866), printed pp. 184–199; selected context pp. 184–185, 194–195. <https://sacred-texts.com/book/duncan-s-masonic-ritual-and-monitor/past-master-or-fifth-degree>

Scripture reading: Mark 10:35–45; 1 Peter 5:1–7. Scripture is paraphrased.

Text record

This companion preserves the source script wording.

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