

Prayer

purpose: To show that prayer is powerful, effectual, and necessary for the disciple of Christ.

center it: Prayer is how we communicate with our Savior.

Mark 1:21-35

- Give contextual info
- Uses the word "immediately" a ton. Mark is a man of few words. He focuses on the essentials.
- Then verse 35, Mark takes time to say that Jesus went out to pray
- **Point:** Jesus was a man of prayer.

Luke 5:16

- Jesus went out by Himself to pray.

Luke 6:12

- Jesus went out to a mountain to pray and spent the whole night in prayer.

Luke 9:28

- Jesus went out to pray and took three friends with Him.

Matthew 5:3,6

- Jesus is describing what it looks like to be a follower of God.
- What sort of things are valued in our society?
 - Power, education, good looks, money, fame, talents.
- Jesus flips the society's values upside down.
 - Blessed are the poor in spirit
 - Etc.
 - The person who is blessed is the one who is painfully aware of their faults and failures.
 - Our sinfulness is the thing that should propel us to Jesus.
- **Point:** We don't have to have it all together in order to come to God in prayer. Our need is our assurance of an answer.

Matthew 7:7,8

- **Ask, Seek, Knock**
- Tenses indicate continual process. Ask and keep asking, seek and keep seeking, knock and keep knocking.

*Romans 8:32

- God spared not His own Son for us.
- Jesus is the best proof that God is a giver. He does not hold things back.
- Will he then be stingy with other things?

*Psalm 66:18

- If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.
- Sin drives a wedge between us and God.
- Use this verse with discretion. i.e. don't use it when someone is overly self-condemned.
- This is talking continually cherishing sin.

Proverbs 28:13

- Mark a number 1 next to “confesses” and a 2 next to “forsakes”.
- This is repentance- confessing and forsaking.
- We’re not saved because of how good we are, we are saved because we put our trust in Him. This is righteousness by faith, the gospel.

Hebrews 11:6

- Must believe that:
 - God exists.
 - He rewards those who seek Him.
- We have to come believing.

Mark 11:24

- Believe in the present that you have received it in the past and it will be given you in the future.

James 4:1-3

- Source of conflict/contention is my own lust.
- What is the difference between a longing and a lust? The difference is the motivation. A lust has a selfish motivation.
- Impure motives are a blockade to answers to prayer.
- God isn’t going to answer a prayer with a yes when it will hurt us.
- Share testimony of a time you asked for something and *did not* receive it.

1 John 5:14,15

- The prayer that is heard & answered is that which is according to His will.
- **Transition:** What is God’s will?

Luke 11:1-4,11-13

- Hallowed be Thy name
 - Begin by rehearsing God’s character
- Your kingdom come
- On earth as it is in heaven. What would that look like?
 - Sinless, God’s character in people’s lives.
 - Kindness and unselfish love would be the rule of the day.
- Give us day by day our daily bread.
 - Okay to pray for physical/material needs.
- Forgive us our sins
 - Ask for mercy (and be forgiving of others).
- Lead us not into temptation; deliver us from evil
 - Victory over sin in our lives is according to God’s will.
 - Addiction, anything!
- The capstone that we need to pray for is the Holy Spirit

Philippians 4:6

- Christians have the availability to live above the anxiety of the world. How? Through prayer.
- Bring everything before Him and let Him have it!
- Come with a spirit of thanksgiving!

appeal: Do you want the life where you live above the anxiety of the world? How many of you want to have thanksgiving and joy and to bring your requests before God without worry?