

The Power Of Routine Week 2

“Prayer”

Routine = a sequence of actions regularly followed; a fixed program.

Sermon Ideas and Talking Points:

Have you ever tried to communicate via walkie-talkie with someone who doesn't really know how they work? They might not hold down the button long enough before they start to talk, so you miss part of what they are saying. Or, worse yet, they might hold down their button the entire time, cutting off the ability to hear what you have to say at all. It's not a very effective way to communicate!

We tend to treat prayer like a **one-way conversation** where we talk and God listens, and we are the ones holding down the button on the walkie-talkie the entire time!

We are in Week 2

Text: Matthew 6:5 –13

Topic: Spiritual Disciplines, Prayer

Big Idea of the Message: Jesus taught that the most effective prayers are simple and heartfelt.

Application Point: When we pray, we should talk honestly with God.

Matthew 6:5–13

5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
16 Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

Jesus encourages us in this passage to not pray lengthy or fancy prayers, thinking our eloquence will get God's attention. We can pray honestly and simply, just like a child does.

Paul instructs us to "pray continually" "**pray without ceasing**" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

One way to think about this kind of praying is to have an ongoing conversation with God.

1. Don't Pray to be seen or heard by others

5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

"I believe that there are two practical applications to this scripture... in verse 6...."

It is important to be intentional about prayer.

Have a place in your house where it is quite, so that you can go and pray.

At the same time....You can pray any time and anywhere you don't have to just be at home.

Jesus said to the disciples to "watch and pray" Matthew 26:41

indicating that you can do two things at once when it comes to prayer lol!

2. Pray To The Father in Jesus Name

If anyone would know exactly how to pray it would be Jesus. He not only gave us instruction on how to pray but he demonstrated to us on how to pray

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven,[a] Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Jesus is our High Priest.

In the old testament. A priest was required to act as a mediator. He is one who represents the God that we serve. He acts as an ambassador, a chosen vehicle through whom Yahweh God has chosen to serve the people and represent Him, on His behalf.

Jesus is now our high priest:

Hebrews 4:14-16,

14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven,[a] Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. **16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence,** so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

So what does this mean for you and I?

It means that as believers that we can be confident that when we pray to the father in Jesus name that the Father hears us. He gets a clear message from us with not interference. Not only that but there is a clear connection for us to hear God talking back to us if we are truly open to hear His voice. Hallelua!

3. Take Time To Listen

We tend to treat prayer like a one-way conversation where we talk and God listens, and we are the ones holding down the button on the walkie-talkie the entire time!

It's helpful to know how prayer is supposed to work.

Biblical examples of prayer include not only petition and thanksgiving, but also asking questions, listening, and God answering. In order to hear God respond in prayer we have to be listening by reading the Bible regularly and quieting our hearts.

John 10:27-28

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

Pray in the Spirit

Ephesians 6:18

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

“It is not enough to begin to pray, nor to pray aright; nor is it enough to continue for a time to pray; but we must pray patiently, believing, continue in prayer until we obtain an answer.”—
George Müller

Application Point: When we pray, we should talk honestly with God and then wait for His response.....