



PRAYER FOR NORMAL PEOPLE: WHY PRAY?

Sermon Notes

Text: Luke 11:1-13

Intro:

Luke 11:1-13

Reasons why we don't pray:

1. If God already knows what we need, why pray?
2. I've prayed for things in the past, and those prayers go unanswered.
3. My prayers don't make a difference.
4. I'm just not very good at prayer.

James 4:2

4 Reasons to Pray:

1. Because Jesus did

Luke 11:1

"Riffing on the Lord's Prayer"

"I remind myself that the Son of God, who had spoken worlds into being and sustains all that exists, felt a compelling need to pray. He prayed as if it made a difference, as if the time he devoted to prayer mattered every bit as much as the time he devoted to caring for people." ~Philip Yancey

2. To develop our relationship with God

Pray to "our Father"

Luke 11:11-13 - God wants to give us more of himself (the Holy Spirit)

3. To practice dependence on God

"God often waits to give blessings until you have prayed for it. Why? Good things that we do not ask for will usually be interpreted by our hearts as the fruit of our own wisdom and diligence. Gifts from God that are not acknowledged as such are deadly to the soul, because they thicken the illusion of self-sufficiency that leads to overconfidence and sets us up for failure." ~Tim Keller

4. For personal transformation

Prayer is a means to experience God's power to transform our lives.

Conclusion:

Assessing your current situation with prayer:

- i. Are you sailing?
- ii. Are you rowing?
- iii. Are you drifting?
- iv. Are you sinking?

Prayer is rowing. Keep praying!

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Who has been the best model of prayer for you in your life? How so?

Study & Discussion:

1. What resonated with you from the sermon? What challenged or surprised you?
2. Look at the 4 reasons people don't pray. Which of these excuses have you made? Why? What makes prayer so hard? Can you think of a time when prayer was easier or more rewarding? What made it that way?
3. Read Matthew 6:5-15. How does this text compare to Luke 1:11-13? Why should prayer be secret (Matthew 6:6)?
4. Look at the 4 reasons why we should pray. Can you think of any more good reasons? Which of the 4 resonate most with you?

Practicing the Way of Jesus:

"Riffing on the Lord's Prayer"

1. This week pray through the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). If you're feeling up to it, try memorizing it. As you pray through it, pause after each line and reflect on the meaning. Summarize the meaning in your own words, then pray. For more help, go to www.betheltab.ca/thewayofjesus and click on Prayer.