

A Praying Church- Becoming a person of prayer.

Sermon Notes

Sept. 22, 2024

***Illustration:** my story with praying bedside, family coming to Christ, W.A.R., my first pastoral visit, healing, coming to LEFC, nudges towards timely prayer.

Prayer is a continual journey, because it is a relationship to constantly nurture.

Review: We began this series with God's invitation to us to come to him and then last week to identify hesitations that keep us from praying with freedom.

Today: Inspiration to become a person of prayer.

Relational challenges provide the most opportunity for prayer. **Daniel 6:1-5**

- Daniel's high level of performance as an administrator threatened the career plans of his peers. (3-4a)
- Daniel's principles by which he lived and led were above approach. (4b)
 - No corruption- no illegal, "under the table", or hidden practices.
 - Trustworthy- high integrity, truthful, submissive.
 - Not negligent- worked hard, attentive to details, responsible.
- Victim of malicious intent.
- Known for utmost loyalty to God. (5)
 - Vulnerability was not Daniel but the King.

Moments of crisis are best met with a foundation of Godly dependence.

Daniel 6:6-10

- Daniel maintained his pattern of prayerful dependence. (10)
 - 3x a day
- Daniel's continued his posture of praying on his knees facing towards Jerusalem with the windows opened.
- He continued to thank God even when faced with a dilemma.
 - He was loyal to the king but chose his greater allegiance to God.
 - His heart was immersed in gratefulness.

Prayerful dependence highlights the power of God. **Daniel 6:11-16**

- God's reputation will be established in a pagan kingdom. (16) **1 Peter 2:12**
- God as true God will be revealed.
- If Daniel was not so prayerfully dependent, it would have been just another story buried in the archives.

God's purpose was to bring about a change of heart in the King.

Daniel 6:17-28

- This gave favorable care over Daniel and ultimately Israel.
- Most importantly, the King declared God as the Living God sovereign over all kingdoms who has the power to save.

Daniel's prayer life reveals five things about prayer:

1. Patterns matter. Keeps your heart in the right place and stable when storms come.
 - Jesus' pattern was of retreat before/after big moments.
 - Jesus also got up early to pray. **Mark 1:35**
 - David's greatest inspirations came at night. **Psalms 8:3**
2. Posture in prayer conveys intent and strengthens our focus.
 - Lifting hands in prayer. **1 Timothy 2:8**
 - Being loud in prayer by clapping and shouting. **Psalms 47:1**
 - Stand in prayer. **Mark 11:25**
 - Singing new songs in prayer. **Psalms 96:1**
 - Making music in prayer. **Psalms 98:5**
3. Petitions become secondary to the relationship and are greatly informed once prayed.
 - Ask and keep on asking. God knows just the right way to respond. **Matthew 7:7-12**
4. Power is made perfect in our precarious moments, because it highlights God's work.
 - Prayer of a righteous person is powerful. **James 5:16**
 - Small faith can accomplish great things. **Matthew 17:20**
 - Prayer will take authority over the strongest of demons. **Mark 9:29**
5. Purposes of God are layered as He responds to our prayers.

- Paul's challenges served the purpose of showing God's power. **2 Corinthians 12:7-9**
- Moses talking with God revealed that God's purpose was to leverage the weakness of Moses to display God's power. **Exodus 9:16**
- Our plans must yield to His purposes. **Proverbs 19:21**
- God's work among us today is to work out His purposes for our greater good.

Romans 8:28 *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his **purpose.**"*

Becoming a person of prayer is a journey

- It reflects the building of a relationship between us and God.
- Our confidence to pray big and find peace with God's response will become stronger than our hesitancy.
- If becoming a person of prayer becomes a movement among us, then we will become a praying church. **Example:** Daniel to Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego. To Israel to remain hopeful and dependent upon God.

Prayer Time:

Lord, how can I improve in my relationship with you?

Are there patterns I should consider for raising my baseline in prayer?

I yield to your purposes but help me to see your power working in and through my life.