

WHO DO WE PRAY TO?

1 KINGS 18:20-40

1-14-24

I. TEST

1. The real God will be the God who responds.

II. FALSE PRAYER

1. False Prayer can be PERSISTENT

~ Result – “No voice, and no one answered.”

*1 Kings 18:26 – “And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, ‘O Baal, answer us!’ But **there was no voice, and no one answered.** And they limped around the altar that they had made.”*

2. False Prayer can be PASSIONATE

~ Result – “No voice. No one answered; no one paid attention.”

*1 Kings 18:29 – “And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. **No one answered; no one paid attention.**”*

3. False Prayer is PRAYING TO AN IDOL

Psalm 135:15-17 - “The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of human hands. ¹⁶They have mouths, but do not speak; they have eyes, but do not see; ¹⁷they have ears, but do not hear, nor is there any breath in their mouths.”

III. TRUE PRAYER

1. True Prayer is to a God who HEARS and RESPONDS

~ Prayer is praying to the RIGHT God with the RIGHT Heart

2. Elijah prayed...

~ God’s Promises - “God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel/Jacob”

~ God’s Glory - “Let it be known that you are God in Israel”

~ Gospel - “(God) turned their hearts back”

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. Why is it important for us to know who we pray to?
3. How does our view of God impact our prayer lives?
4. How can we expand our view of God and therefore expand our confidence in praying to Him?
5. What are some ways that we can make sure our heart is right when we approach prayer? What are some ways our heart can be distracted in prayer?
6. Prayer is how we express our dependency upon God. Idolatry would be depending on something instead of God. What are some idols in our lives that we can depend upon instead of God? How can prayer help us defeat those idols?
7. Elijah's prayer was an opportunity for God to showcase His glory. How can our prayer lives showcase God's glory to people around us?
8. Elijah also prayed that God would "turn hearts back". Who are some people that you are actively praying for their salvation? Share with the group and spend some time praying together as a group for those people!

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

This year as we focus on prayer, we are going to be highlighting various things that we can be praying for as a church in our community groups.

- This week let's be praying for the Erie City Mission! Pastor Rob O'Connell has a very important Chaplaincy ministry to the homeless in our city. Pray for encouragement and Gospel engagement.
- Also be praying for the new CEO of the Erie City Mission: Brian Johansson and his wife Peggy. They are new to Erie and new to MCC! Pray for their adjustment and for strong spiritual leadership as he oversees the Mission!