

SERMON TITLE: **The Secret of Prayer**

TEXT: **Mark 1:35-39**

INTRODUCTION.

In this sermon, we will learn about the importance of prioritizing prayer in our lives. As we study what Scripture says, we will come to understand that prayer must be intentional and it must be practiced.

DISCUSSION.

Compare your life today with how you were 5 or 10 years ago. In what ways has your life of prayer improved?

EXAMINATION.

Mark 1:32-39 [also Luke 5:16 & Matthew 6:6]

After a day like this (vv. 29-34), what pressures could Jesus feel as a new day dawns? What do you think he is praying about? Do you think it has anything to do with his decision to move on (v. 38)?

What are the three pieces of equipment for prayer that were taught about in the sermon? What do you do when you need to get away and be with God? What is your 'quiet place'? What makes this place special for talking with and listening to God?

Which of the three pieces of prayer equipment (quiet place, quiet time, quiet heart) from the sermon do you feel you need to work on the most? How will you do this?

Jesus had a purpose and mission and it was not to stay at Capernaum with people lined up at the door needing him to do something. The same is true for us. There are many noises and distractions in our lives that can drown out the voice of God as He calls us to our purpose — noises and distractions that keep us from prayer. What keeps you from spending more time in prayer?

APPLICATION.

- What one thing will you do this week to begin to prioritize and practice prayer in your life? Commit to it and see what God will do.
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?