
Sermon Notes

January 14, 2018

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Lord, Teach Us to Pray Luke 11:1

The Power of Example

- ❖ The importance of modeling
 - not just "do as I say", but "do as I do"
 - the example of Jesus and His disciples
 - the disciples see the strong connection between Jesus public ministry and His secret life in prayer
 - one disciple in particular wants to know more, and asks Jesus: *Lord, teach us to pray*
- ❖ Jesus is a Master in the art of prayer
 - no one prays like Jesus
 - no one is better able to teach us to pray than Jesus
 - we need to grow in our desire and ability to unite with Jesus in prayer
- ❖ Jesus offers to teach us not about the fact that we "ought" to pray but **HOW** we are to pray

The School of Prayer

- ❖ Are you willing to "go back to school"?
- ❖ The pattern for prayer that Jesus offers His disciples is so simple a very young child can enter into it, at the same time, it is the highest and holiest work to which any of us will ever rise
 - to pray as Jesus prays is the essence of what it means to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus
 - prayer unites us with God's purposes for ourselves, others, His church, and the world at large
 - in prayer, the glory of God is brought into clearer focus and fuller revelation
- ❖ Left on our own, we are unfit for and incapable of the work of prayer
 - left to our own strength and resources we will have no lasting zeal for the work of prayer
 - we are too easily captivated by emotionalism and sentimentality in prayer
- ❖ Jesus' school for prayer is now in session
 - free tuition!
 - flexible hours

Jesus Is a Man of Prayer

- ❖ Jesus learned prayer in the middle of all the tears and trials of His own earthly life (Hebrews 5:7)

- at His baptism (Luke 3:21)
- in the wilderness (Luke 4:1-15)
- a frequent pattern of sustained private prayer (Luke 5:16)
 - before choosing His Apostles (Luke 6:12)
 - before His transfiguration (Luke 9:28)
 - as a man, Jesus sought His strength and guidance from the Father in prayer
- ❖ Do you want to be more like Jesus?
 - nothing delights Jesus more than welcoming students into His classroom
 - if Jesus has access to your heart, then Jesus can and will teach you to pray if that is your heart's desire
- ❖ The only price of admission into Jesus' school of prayer is the simple, heartfelt desire expressed by His eager disciple, ***Lord, teach us to pray***

A Praying Church

- ❖ God seeks a praying, passionate, powerful church
 - back to basics
 - the next "new thing" is the first "old thing"
- ❖ "Prayer is intimacy with God that leads to the fulfillment of His purpose."
- ❖ 4C's Guiding Value #1: a culture of believing prayer & intercession

- leaders in the church must set and model this priority of prayer with conviction
- a prayer culture is fueled by experience not explanation
- a prayer culture is sustained by the right motive
 - the only enduring motive for prayer is that God is worthy to be sought
 - we pray because our never-changing God is worthy to be sovereign
- ❖ Scripture-fed, Spirit-led, Worship-based prayer
 - God-centered prayer
 - let God start the conversation (this requires an open Bible)
- ❖ Jesus' pattern for prayer

THE 4/4 PATTERN FOR PRAYER

