

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 6th February 2022
Sermon Title: Reorder
Bible Passage: Matthew 6: 5 - 15

Introduction

Take time to read the passage from a couple of different translations.

- What stands out to you from this passage?
- Take time to share some stories of God answering your prayers.
- Do you have a regular pattern of prayer throughout the day?
- Do you think that prayer is important? Why?

Recapping the Preach

Stu began by pointing out that prayer is a gift, it is a privilege for us to be able to approach God's throne of grace and find help in our time of need and it is a place of rest and peace for the follower of Jesus. He went on to explain that Jesus was showing the disciples how not to pray, how they should pray and hidden within that is the main idea that ultimately prayer is about relationship.

- Stu summed up the passage with this sentence, 'Prayer is about relationship whose greatest reward is relationship'. Do you agree with this?
- Why do you think Jesus said they should not pray loudly on street corners to be seen by men?
- Jesus said we shouldn't go on babbling like the pagans because the Father knows what we need. How do we reconcile this with his teaching to be persistent in prayer (Luke 18:1-8)?
- Why do you think Jesus said we should go into a room in private to pray?

Stu then pointed out the broad headings of the Lord's Prayer as relationship, reverence, submission and dependance. The headings provide us with a structure for our prayers.

- What is the significance of addressing God as Father?
- Make a list of all the names of God that you can think of (or searching online) - what do these names tell you about the character and nature of God?
- How does 'hallowing God's name' help us in our prayer life?
- When you hear the word 'submission' what comes to mind?
- Jesus encourages us to pray for our everyday needs: bread, forgiveness, protection and grace to forgive others. What else might we pray for?

Stu finished by asking the question: what difference does it make and concluded that it makes all the difference because it leads to three places. Read the verses below and work out the blessings of prayer.

- Philippians 4:4-7
- John 15: 5-7
- Psalm 150
- Have you seen these blessings of prayer in your own life? In what way?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?
- How can you reorder your life around prayer so that it is not something you need to squeeze in but a regular part of your day?

Prayer pointers

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.
- Take time to share other answers to prayer that you have received.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>