

The Gospel According to Luke

CRYING OUT TO GOD

PART 10

Persistent Prayer

READ: LUKE 18:1-8

INTRODUCTION

Something that is fascinating about God and yet, often forgotten is that He desires to have a relationship with us. He is not an unrelational God but One that desires to be connected with and active in blessing His people. This means that our prayers to Him never will fall on deaf ears. He delights in hearing from His children through their prayers and listens with pleasure as we talk to Him. It is not that we are stating anything He doesn't already know (He knows all things) but, prayer allows us to have good relationship with Him as our Father.

A misunderstood part of prayer is that through our prayers, we will change God's mind and that is not correct. Prayer to the Father aligns my heart to His will and not the other way around. This means that when I pray for God's blessings, the goal is to start to appreciate and glorify Him in all things as opposed to treating Him like a genie that gives me my wishes as long as I say the correct words and do the right things. God is rarely formulaic in nature but rather, a God that requires me to change so that I may better serve Him.

This passage deals with a woman who was persistent in her requests. This is indicative of how we are to be in our prayer lives: persistent. (James 5:16) We pray with passion and we do so in order to see God's will be done here on earth. This kind of prayer life will lead into real relationship with Him and a better understanding of who He is and why He ought to receive all of the worship and praise that we have to offer and more. It also allows us to be joyful in everything instead of discontent. We become a people of action instead of being people who complain. We become people who are concerned with the needs of others as opposed to only focusing on our own needs. We are able to say that we rejoice in all things and in every situation, (Psalm 100:4)

ADVENT

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you believe and know that God desires relationship with you? What implications does that have on our lives when we truly believe it?
2. How does a good prayer life equate to having a good relationship with the Father? What aspects of your own prayer life can improve to have a better relationship with Him?
3. Why can it be so easy to go into prayer with a list of requests as opposed to going in looking for a relationship? How can we change that?
4. Read James 5:16. What does this verse say about our prayer life? What does it imply for us and our relationship with God?
5. What is the purpose of prayer? How should we then pray?

WRAP UP

Prayer can be complicated because there are times we feel as though we are talking to ourselves or that we are making outlandish requests to someone who isn't there or doesn't care. God is different than any other being in that, He loves having relationship with us and desires it in a holy and undeserved way. We have not done anything to deserve His kindness but, He gives it and gives it abundantly. This is one of the many reasons that our prayer life should never be ignored.