



Week 1 - "When You Pray: PRAISE" - Pastor Jeremy Bates

Sermon Notes, January 9, 2022

Text: Luke 11:1, Matthew 6:5-10

Introduction

As Jesus disciples spent time with him in the intimate moments between ministry, travel and life in general, they sensed something different about his spiritual life - they recognized he was tapped into something they needed and wanted for themselves. They could sense the presence and power of God and were moved by it. Their hearts were kindled with a yearning for the same intimacy with God that Jesus enjoyed, and so they asked, "*Lord, teach us to pray....*" (Luke 11:1)

Prayer = "simply talking to God", simple yet not simplistic.

In the simplicity of the Lord's Prayer Jesus:

- 1) Lays out all the principles that govern humanity's relationship to God - reverence, repentance submission & dependence
- 2) Combines every divine promise & every human aspiration
- 3) Makes it's application universal to every generation, situation, every tribe & nation

Over the next 4 weeks we'll be examining Jesus' teaching on prayer through the acronym P - praise, R - repent. A - ask. Y - yield

Matthew 6:5-10

The point of Jesus' teaching on prayer is mainly about what GOD wants to do IN US, before it's ever about what WE want God to do FOR US.

When you pray, begin with PRAISE:

- God's PERSON "Our Father..."
- God's PLACE "in heaven..."
- God's PURPOSES "...may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."

Conclusion:

Why should we pray if God already knows what we need? Prayer is about more than an appeal, more than presenting our needs and requests to God. Prayer is about aligning our lives to God.



Life Group Discussion

Warm-Up:

Stats say +80% of Canadians never leave home without their phone - when was the last time you were "*without connection*"? How did it make you feel?

Study & Discussion:

1) What resonated with you from the sermon? What challenged or surprised you? What questions do you have?

Read Luke 11:1-4 & Matthew 6:5-10

2) The Lord's Prayer has been described as "an ocean of truth in a drop of speech". While the disciples had grown up knowing about prayer, praying before meals, throughout the day, religiously in synagogue or on Holy days - what would have stood out to them about Jesus' prayer that prompted them to ask him to "teach us to pray"?

3) What comes to mind when you hear the statement: "The point of Jesus' teaching on prayer is that it is really about what God wants to do in us, before it's about what we want God to do for us?"

"If God is not given the chief place in our praying, our prayers will be anemic. When our thoughts begin with him, love is kindled and faith stimulated." J Oswald Sanders

4) How does beginning our prayer with praise of God's person, place & purpose fix our focus, fuel our faith & align our desires to God's?

Read 1 John 5:14

5) Why should we pray if God already knows what we need? (Matthew 6:8)

6) What consideration do you think God gives to our spiritual maturity or readiness to receive the answers to prayers we have prayed. How do our priorities, understanding of his character, acknowledgment of his authority and submission to his will play a part in it?

Practicing the Way of Jesus:

1) Commit to joining Bethel on our 21 day prayer journey, live on FB & Instagram at noon if you can, and afterwards if you can't.

2) Take turns reading verses from Psalm 145:8-21. Pray a prayer of thanks and praise to God based on the verses you've just read.

