

SERMON: A Praying People

December 31, 2017

SERIES: Who We Are

SPEAKER: Pastor Jamie

CONNECT (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

REVIEW (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

SCRIPTURE:

Luke 18:1-8.

¹ And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. ³ And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" ⁶ And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷ And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? ⁸ I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

SERMON OUTLINE:

- I. We are called to pray and not lose heart.
 - We must live dependent upon the Father.
 - He is the Judge who cares and hears.
- II. We need a proper view of God.
 - God cares for us.
 - God meets our greatest need: salvation.
 - God never delays answers due to lack of care or lack of power.
 - God's delays are always for our good.
 - God will bring swift and certain justice for his children.
- III. We need a proper view of self.
 - We are often grieved by trials.
 - We depend on God, so bring your needs to him.
 - We are not in control, so learn to trust God.

GROW (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group.

Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. Pastor Jamie said that we fail to pray for 2 reasons: 1) We think we have all the tools we need to do things our self (overconfidence), or 2) we carry our “trash” with us feeling as if God will not listen to us when we pray (despair). Which of these 2 mindsets are you most likely to fall into? Why?
2. As you think about the parable Jesus told in Luke 18 do you see yourself like the widow? How do you see God? Is he like the unjust judge in the parable to you?
3. Jesus told us to pray and not lose heart. How does the truth of the gospel allow you to pray continually without losing heart? (Think about your position in Christ).
4. Review the points in the sermon outline #II above. Have you experienced unanswered prayers that have caused you to question God’s power or goodness? Have you experienced answered prayer that caused you to trust him more? Do you believe that God’s timing and answers are always perfect?
5. Review the points in the sermon outline #III above. In what ways have you experienced God changing your heart through prayer? How has prayer increased your faith?

Spend some time praying together as a small group. Read Luke 18:8. Pray for each other to be found faithful when Christ returns.