

THE BIG IDEA: Prayer about everything prepares us for anything.The Take-Off

This morning, we're going to be talking about a topic that many of us get frustrated with because most of us never feel like we're really good at it.

Either it's too hard or too boring or too confusing or too....

You get the idea.

This morning I want you to see what a life of prayer looks like (and what the inverse - a life without prayer - looks like) We'll be in Luke 22:39-53

While you're turning or scrolling to it, take a minute and rank yourself as a person of prayer between 1 and 10

Don't think of 1 as bad and 10 as perfect - instead think of 1 as rarely and 10 as always

It's more about how integral prayer is in your life

Most of us have had some version of the infamous "at school in our underwear" dream, haven't we?

It's usually a sign that there's something we feel anxious about or unprepared for, and none of us want to feel that

What I want us to see this morning is the role that prayer plays in getting us ready for the things that we face - even the unexpected things that we face

[Story of John Wesley in the boat during a storm]

There are lots of things that we can do to get ready, but there is nothing more important than prayer

In fact, **prayer about everything prepares us for anything.**

By now you've found the passage in Luke 22 and you've seen that the verses break naturally into 2 sections: Jesus praying in the garden and Judas betraying Jesus in the garden

These 2 sections give us a glimpse into 2 very different lives: the preprayered life and the unpreprayered life

1. The preprayered life

- a. When I first read the first section, 2 words stood out to me: "as usual" in verse 39
- b. Prayer was part of Jesus' normal life
 - Luke 5:16 / Jesus "often" withdrew to lonely places and prayed
 - Mark 1:35 / His day started with the Father
 - Mark 6:46 / He left for the mountain to pray
 - Luke 6:12 / He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer
- c. Prayer wasn't an event for Jesus, it was an everyday occurrence
- d. He had a relationship with the Father and prayer was the way they communicated
 - John 12:49-50 / Jesus listens then Jesus speaks
 - John 14:10 / It is the Father dwelling in Jesus - this is relationship language
- e. When we pray in relationship, we can pray big prayers without fear of saying the wrong thing
- f. Jesus asked God for a big thing: a new plan
- g. But because of the relationship, the Father ministered to Jesus even though the prayer wasn't answered
- h. Prayer isn't about convincing God to do things; it's about communing with God through things
- i. Even though the prayer wasn't answered the way Jesus asked for it to be, Jesus rose ready
- j. He was **preprayered** for what happened next

2. The unpreprayered life

- a. But look at what happened to those in the story who were **unpreprayered**
- b. First, the disciples
 - While Jesus wept, they slept
 - I love that Luke gave us some insight into why they were asleep: they were exhausted from sorrow
 - Anyone who has ever grieved or been sad from bad news or loss can relate: you may know that you need to pray, but you find it hard to even function
 - I also love that Jesus didn't see that as a valid reason
 - He wanted to know why they were sleeping and not praying
 - He inquired about the relationship, not the event
- c. Because they went into the conflict in the garden unpreprayered, they reacted in their own strength
- d. Luke 22:49-50 / They asked Jesus if they should attack and then attacked! They didn't wait for an answer!!

- e. When we don't live a life of prayer, we can rush ahead of God's plan
- f. Second, look at Judas
 - He kissed Jesus / The appearance of intimacy
 - A prayerless life can be around Jesus, even appear to connect with Jesus, and never be committed to Jesus
 - He denied the power of Jesus / why else bring so many people? / he forgot who Jesus was
 - He lacked any power of his own - a prayer less life is a powerless life
- g. Power is what we need

The Landing

[Plugging in my iPhone only to return and find it didn't charge]

That's a lot of us - we appear to be connected, but there's no power

The evidence of a preprayered of an unpreprayered life isn't based in what we do; it's based in what he have or don't have: power!

I'm calling us to pray, because prayer about everything prepares us for anything!

People who make a specific plan for when and where they will perform a new habit are more likely to follow through. Too many people try to change their habits without these basic details figured out. We tell ourselves, "I'm going to eat healthier" or "I'm going to write more," but we never say when and where these habits are going to happen. We leave it up to chance and hope that we will "just remember to do it" or feel motivated at the right time. An implementation intention sweeps away foggy notions like "I want to work out more" or "I want to be more productive" or "I should vote" and transforms them into a concrete plan of action. Many people think they lack motivation when what they really lack is clarity. (From Atomic Habits)

Don't just make a decision that you need to pray more - make a plan to pray more

When will you? Where will you? How will you? How long will you?

Maybe the answer to those questions is ***right now, at the altar, in desperation, for as long as it takes.***

Let's pray.