

Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Appendix 7 – Starting a Prayer Ministry

Park Plaza Brookside * Fireside Room

July 10, 2016

Today We Complete Our Series

- Started in December – Now July
- A lot has happened since then
- Two Polarizing Presumptive Presidential Nominees
- Volatile State, National & International economy (UK voted for BREXIT)
- Kevin Durant is leaving the Oklahoma City Thunder
- What is a Christian to do?

What is a Christian to Do?

Pray NOW!

Review – What Have We Discussed?

- History of Prayer
- The Power & Priority of Prayer
- Why? What? When? How?
- What “Condition” YOU need to be in so that you may Pray effectively
- Strategies
- Targets

What Have You Learned?

What's Left?

Starting YOUR Prayer Ministry!

House of Prayer

- Mark 11:17
- Jesus said, **“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”**
- Is Park Plaza known as a “house of prayer”

House of Prayer – Worship Service

- Opening Prayer
- Elder's Prayer
- 3 Prayers during Communion
- Closing Prayer
- Silent Prayers for a “short” sermon?

House of Prayer – Watch Out!

- Did we ask the right question?

Is Park Plaza known as a “house of prayer”?

- Shouldn't we ask?

Do the MEMBERS of Park Plaza frequently visit the “house of prayer”?

- Better yet?

Do YOU frequently visit the “house of prayer”?

How Do YOU Start YOUR Prayer Ministry?

- Pick a TIME
- Pick a PLACE
- Pick a TOPIC
- Start PRAYING

Praying WITH Others

- WINGS
- Ladies Thursday Morning Bible Class
- Don Millican's Wednesday Night Bible Class
- Many more – if interested, let's find you one
- Suggested: Sunday mornings before Bible Class and Worship Service

Sunday Morning Weekly News Flash

Version 1

- Kevin Durant is leaving the Oklahoma City Thunder
- The Economy is in shambles
- Dallas shooting

Sunday Morning Weekly News Flash

Version 2

- Allan Trimble diagnosed with ALS. Let's pray!
- Brother "What's-his-name" lost his job. "Let's pray!"
- One of the Dallas officers was a newlywed, and another was a new Dad. Let's pray!

Sunday Morning Weekly News Flash

Version 2+

- Mark McCoy got a great report back from his doctor. Let's pray!
- Sister "What's-her-name" starts her new job tomorrow. "Let's pray!"
- Some of the wounded officers will be leaving the hospital soon. Let's pray!

NOW we are starting to sound like a "house of prayer"!

Pick a Topic

- Park Plaza Elders, Deacons and Ministers
- Youth Ministry
- Speak Spanish? No? Great! How about the Hispanic Ministry.
- City of Tulsa
- TU Football Team
- Who or What has the Holy Spirit put on your heart?
Prayer Mascot

The Secret to Starting Your Prayer Ministry

The Secret to Starting Your Prayer Ministry

Just Do It!

Now for Something Completely Different

- The Heavenly Man
- Safely Home
- 2 Books which describe the Church in China
- Very interesting & Very Powerful

Status of the Church in China

- If your Bible does not have the official “red” stamp, it is considered illegal
- Complete copies of the Bible are rare – a “congregation” may only have access to one or part of one Bible. (This has resulted in some interesting interpretations.)
- Often times the Bibles are torn apart so that different people keep different parts. If a person’s house is raided or if that person is arrested, then the congregation does not lose ALL of the Bible, but just that one part.

Status of the Church in China

- As a consequence, many people “hand-copy” the part of the Bible in their possession
- WOW!

Why Not Write Your Own Copy?

- Many of us have read through the entire Bible – some more than once, and reading different translations
- But “writing” is a completely different process than “reading”
- Writing is more “active” than “reading”
- I started about a month ago

Reece's Experiment in Writing

- I sit at the kitchen table, not in front of the TV!
- I open my Bible and my journal
- I use my archival quality pens
- Start writing

Ancient Scribes

- Common in illiterate societies, less need with the advent of printing
- Scribes are still found on street corners in less developed parts of the world
- Primarily worked with government and religious officials
- “Scribes” evolved into public servants, accountants and lawyers
- Much of what we know from history is from ancient records written by scribes

Ancient Scribes - Egypt

- Part of the royal court
- Not conscripted (drafted) – Barry West's Vietnam War Story
- Did not pay taxes!

Ancient Scribes – Jewish Tradition

The Jewish scribes used the following process for creating copies of the Torah and eventually other books

- They could only use clean animal skins, both to write on, and even to bind manuscripts.
- Each column of writing could have no less than forty-eight, and no more than sixty lines.
- The ink must be black, and of a special recipe.
- They must say each word aloud while they were writing.

Ancient Scribes – Jewish Tradition

- They must wipe the pen and wash their entire bodies before writing the most Holy Name of God, YHVH, every time they wrote it.
- There must be a review within thirty days, and if as many as three pages required corrections, the entire manuscript had to be redone.
- The letters, words, and paragraphs had to be counted, and the document became invalid if two letters touched each other. The middle paragraph, word and letter must correspond to those of the original document.

Ancient Scribes – Jewish Tradition

- The documents could be stored only in sacred places (synagogues, etc.).
- As no document containing God's Word could be destroyed, they were stored, or buried, in a genizah.
- When the Dead Sea Scrolls were compared with the current existing manuscripts, the “accuracy” was outstanding

Reece's Observations

- Being a “scribe” is hard work
- After about 30 minutes, my back will start to hurt
- It takes a lot of concentration
- It is easy to become distracted – so I don't sit in front of the TV or play iTunes

Reece's Observations

- I have a personal reason for not listening to iTunes.
- If someone was speaking to me, I would turn off the music so I could hear what they have to say.
- If copying the Bible represents God's speaking to me, why would I not show him the same courtesy?

Reece's Observations

- When I sit down at the kitchen table, a calming sensation comes over me. I can feel my body relax. My heart rate slows down. Very Cool!
- The kids will come to the kitchen table to talk to me.
 - My initial reaction was one of aggravation for being interrupted and to politely ask them to “go away” because Daddy was being holy
 - Then I realized, that I came to the kitchen table to speak with my Heavenly Father, and they have come to the kitchen table to speak with their Earthly Father
 - Now, I put my pen down and just visit

Reece's Observations

- I had to learn to forgive my self
 - While working on the book of Psalms, I misspelled “Anointed One”
 - It came out “Annoyed One”
- I know how to spell “Anointed” – it just came out that way!
- I was so discouraged and disgusted, I was ready to quit
- But, I forgave myself, made the correction, and continued

Reece's Tips & Tricks

- To get started, you need paper and a pen
- Paper
 - Spiral notebooks work. Already bound.
 - Loose-leaf notebook works. If you make a mistake, just fix that one page. Need to decide what type of notebook to “bind” your pages in.
 - Archival purposes – acid-free
 - Journal

Reece's Tips & Tricks

- 17:18 Series aka Journibles
- Deuteronomy 17:18 states that each of Israel's kings was required to make their own copy of the law.
- Maybe we should require the same of our Presidents, Congressman & Judges – they could start with the Constitution, and then continue with the statutes
- Available @ Mardel's and Amazon
- New Testament is in 11 volumes (\$10 - \$16/each)

Reece's Tips & Tricks

- If you want to give it a try, shorter versions (\$4/each) available for
 - Philippians
 - James
 - Psalm 119

Reece's Tips & Tricks

- Currently working on the book of Matthew
- Matthew has 28 chapters
- The Matthew Journible has 320 pages
- It takes me 10-15 minutes for 2 pages. Probably about 25-40 hours to complete

Reece's Tips & Tricks

- Use a comfortable pen or pencil
- I found some nice archival quality pens at Hobby Lobby & Michael's
- You can find the “width” that is most comfortable for you
- For fun, I am using a red pen for the “words of Christ”

Reece's Tips & Tricks

- Pick a translation you like
 - KJV
 - NKJV
 - NIV – 1984
 - NIV – 2011
 - Metrical Psalm

Psalm 23 (Meter: 8,6,8,6)

- 1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
- 2 He makes me down to lie
- In pastures green: he leadeth me
- the quiet waters by.
- 3 My soul he doth restore again;
- and me to walk doth make
- Within the paths of righteousness,
- ev'n for his own name's sake.

Psalm 23 (Meter: 8,6,8,6)

- 4 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
 - yet will I fear none ill:
 - For thou art with me; and thy rod
 - and staff me comfort still.
- 5 My table thou hast furnished
 - in presence of my foes;
 - My head thou dost with oil anoint,
 - and my cup overflows.

Psalm 23 (Meter: 8,6,8,6)

- 6 Goodness and mercy all my life
- shall surely follow me:
- And in God's house for evermore
- my dwelling-place shall be.

What Does This Have To Do With Prayer?

- When the heirs of Margaret Mitchell decided to produce a sequel, the author they selected hand wrote “Gone with the Wind” twice!
- She wanted to capture the tone and temperament of the original.
- You want to learn how to pray? Try copying the books of Psalms.

- Give it a try!

BONUS Quote

- “The greatest tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer.”
- F.B. Meyer

Thank-You for Praying for Us!



- Clint Hill
- Chris Mayfield
- Reece Morrel Jr.

Closing Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank-you for the gift of prayer. Thank-you for letting us approach you as you sit on your heavenly throne. Thank-you for teaching us to pray. In the name of Jesus, amen.