



August 9, 2020

SERIES: WHAT WE NEED NOW

Lesson 1: Faithful and Fervent Prayer

Text: Mark 1: 35-38

Big Idea: We need to be committed to faithful and fervent prayer. Such a commitment is required at all seasons, but it is especially pertinent to our present circumstances.

Weekly Ministry Items

Announcements: _____

Outreach/Ministry Reports: _____

Prayer Time: _____

Group Lesson Plan:

Paraphrase the Text: _____

Read the Text: _____

Facilitate Bible Study: _____

Discussion Questions:

Icebreaker: Henry Blackaby has said, "Some Christians are satisfied to have only a surface relationship with Christ" (*Experiencing God Day by Day Devotional*, p.84). Do you agree with that statement? In your mind, what are some evidences of a life fully devoted to Jesus?

In verse 35, Mark gives us a peek into Jesus' practice of private worship. What action words can you identify that describe Jesus' prayer practices? Would you agree that if we are to have an effective prayer life that we must make time for it? Read 1 Timothy 4:7. What does it mean to "train yourself in godliness" and how does this apply to one's prayer life? Does discipline come easy for you?

Notice also in verse 35 that Jesus "made His way to a deserted place." Why do you think this was necessary? Do you have a private place to meet the Lord in prayer? If not, can you think of a place to go to be alone with God? Verse 35 ends with, "and there He was praying." Do you think it strange that the Son of God felt the need to pray? How would you answer a skeptic who asks, "Why would God need to talk to Himself"?

When the disciples awoke, what was their dilemma (v. 36)? What did they do? Do you think their motives for finding Jesus were pure based on what He had done just the day before (vv.21-25)?

Read verse 37. How can other people be a distraction from the priority of prayer? Why do you think “everyone” was looking for Jesus? Do you ever find it tempting to do “ministry” and neglect spending time with the Lord first? What was the result?

Read verse 38. What was Jesus’ purpose statement? In what way is verse 38 a foreshadowing of Jesus’ words found in the Great Commission found in Matthew 28: 18-20? How is prayer a vital component to ministry?

Discuss this statement: *“When we work, we get what we can do. When we pray and work, we get what God can do.”*

Henry Blackaby writes: “Prayer is not designed to change God; it is designed to change us. Prayer is not calling God in to bless our activities. Rather, prayer takes us into God’s presence, shows us His will and prepares us to obey Him....God will use your prayer times to soften your heart and change your focus. As you pray for others, the Holy Spirit will work in your heart so that you have the same compassion for them that God does. If you do not love people as you should, pray for them. If you are not as active in God’s service as you know He wants you to be, begin praying. You cannot be intimately exposed to God’s heart and remain complacent. The time spent with God will change you and make you more like Christ” (*Experiencing God Day by Day Devotional*, p.280).

What the church needs now is faithful and fervent prayer.

Teaching To Obey (Matt. 28:20):

In response to God’s revealed truth in your life, what action steps will you take today to obey His will? Are there:

Sins to confess? Promises to claim? Attitudes to change? Commands to obey? Examples to follow?

Our text for August 16: Mark 10: 35-45

