FOLLOWING THE PATH OF JESUS

A Harmony Of the Gospels

A Daily Devotional Study Guide - Book 2



"Power Over Evil"

Study: Luke 10:9-20
Reading: Matthew 10:5-42
Memory: 1 John 2:2

When our children were very little we would be amazed at how they often liked the boxes that their toys came in more than the toys themselves. This would inevitably lead to comments like, "We could have saved a lot of money and just gave them a box for their gift." Sometimes, that statement really would be true, but it would be pretty hard for a loving parent just to give their child a box.

Today, we are going to read how we as people can be like children getting gifts from God. The disciples received power over evil and were thrilled about that power, but that power was just like the colorful boxes that hold the toys. We will see that Jesus didn't want the disciples to get too thrilled about the "box" of earthly power because He wanted them to fully enjoy the "toy" of heavenly hope.

What Does the Bible Say?

Jesus gave power to the 70 (or 72) men that He was sending out to minister. They were to heal people and declare that the kingdom of God was near. The healing was to help people see that Jesus was the Son of God. If those in a town or city did not receive the messengers of God once they had seen the miracles, the disciples were to wipe off the dust of their feet which was a symbol of rejection and disdain for the town. They were to still proclaim that the kingdom was coming and help the people understand that they would receive judgement for their choice to reject the Messiah and His messengers. Jesus told His disciples that in the day of judgment it would be much more tolerable for Sodom than it would be for those who saw the miracles of God first hand and chose not to believe (vs 9-12).

As He did when He sent out the twelve, Jesus declared that there would be fierce judgment for those cities who would reject His message. He declared that Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum would face greater judgement than Tyre and Sidon because the people in those wicked cities would have repented if they had the seen the mighty works of God. Jesus

stated that those who chose to reject Him will be rejected in the day of judgment because they were rejecting God (vs 13-16).

After the disciples traveled two by two to the cities God directed them to, they returned back to Jesus with great joy. They were amazed because even the demons would listen to them. This was due to the power of Jesus Christ working through them. Jesus responded to this by describing how He personally witnessed Satan falling from heaven, which indicated how He had seen the power of God over Satan first hand. Jesus clearly understood the power that He had because He was God and told His followers that they would have power to walk on serpents and scorpions and not get hurt. They would have complete power over the enemy and could walk around unharmed because of the power of God. By this, Jesus was not saying that believers would never experience pain or be hurt, much of the New Testament reveals otherwise. He was saying that when a person is living in the will of God and seeking to accomplish God's plan that they will have full power over evil. It must be remembered that sometimes it is God's plan to allow hurtful things to happen for the furtherance of the kingdom of God (vs 17-19).

Though they had great power and that caused great rejoicing in their hearts, Jesus told them to be more thrilled in the fact that their names were written in heaven than in the fact that they had power over evil. Jesus wanted them to live with a heavenly focus rather than an earthly one. If the disciples started to give too much attention to their earthly powers they could easily forget why God had them on this earth (vs 20).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize the power you have as a follower of Christ? When you understand this, it should give you boldness to be a witness for Him. You don't have to fear any power on this earth because you have complete power over any evil that may harm you. This does not mean that you should be unwise and do things without care and caution, but it does mean that you need to trust God and step out in faith when He calls you to do so. Satan has no power to harm you unless God allows it and if He allows it, you know that it is part of His plan for your life.

Do you have a heavenly focus? It is easy to enjoy the benefits of the Christian life and the power and blessings that it brings, but it is very easy to take those things for granted and start enjoying the benefits for the benefits themselves. This often leads to an earthly focus rather than a heavenly one which normally turns into complacency and a Christian life that is accomplishing little for the kingdom of God.

What had Jesus instructed 72 of His followers to do (vs 3-8)?

What were they given power to do (vs 9)?

What was their purpose for healing the sick (vs 9)?

What would some of the towns do (vs 10)?

How were they to react to this rejection (vs 11)?

What were they to make clear to the towns (vs 11)?

What do you think it meant that "the kingdom of God has come near (vs 11)?

What did Jesus say about the people of Sodom (vs 13)?

What do you think He meant by that statement?

What Jewish cities did Jesus mention (vs 13, 15)?

What pagan cities were mentioned (vs 13-14)?

What point do you think Jesus was making?

What did Jesus make clear about His messengers (vs 16)?

Why were the seventy-two amazed (vs 17)?

What did Jesus say He witnessed (vs 18)?

What did Jesus say He had given His disciples the power to do (vs 19)?

What point was He making?

Why do you think Jesus warned them not to focus on the earthly power they had been given (vs 20)?

What were they to rejoice in (vs 20)?

"Supermen"

Study: Luke 10:21-28
Reading: I Corinthians 1:18-31
Memory: 1 John 2:2

The idea of an ordinary person doing amazing things has been a plot in literature for centuries. You see this idea continue today in movies and cartoons and I think one of the prime examples of that is in the character of Superman. Clark Kent was presented as an ordinary man with no extra abilities, even to the point where sometimes He was clumsy, shy and unpopular. Yet, it was this unassuming man that would enter phone booths and turn into Superman who had the ability to defeat any foe that would come his way.

Today, we are going to see that Jesus thanked God that His followers were ordinary people. Christ chose those people who were not significant in that day, yet the Holy Spirit performed great works through them.

What Does the Bible Say?

After the disciples had returned to Jesus, rejoicing in the power and ability that they had been given, Jesus rejoiced in God as well. He thanked the Father for choosing to use ordinary men to do such extra-ordinary things. Jesus described his followers as "little children" indicating that there was nothing greatly unique or significant about the individuals that He had called. This was all part of God's gracious and wonderful plan. God had given power over to Jesus and Jesus now had the power to reveal Himself to whoever He would choose. By this Jesus was not only thanking the Father, but revealing to His followers that their power came from Him, but ultimately it was given by the Father (vs 21-22).

Jesus then turned to them and told them that they were extremely blessed to be able to see what they had seen. Prophets and kings for centuries had desired to see God in the flesh and the power that came with Him, yet it was these simple people who had been given the great privilege of seeing God work in mighty and miraculous ways. This statement seemed also to be a challenge to the disciples, encouraging them not to take for granted what they have been given an opportunity

to witness (23-24).

We are not certain, but we are assuming that Jesus was somewhere in Judea when a man who was well studied in the Law attempted to trip Jesus up by asking Him what he needed to do to inherit eternal life. In an interesting reply, Jesus asked the man what was written in the Law. Jesus often answered questions with other questions, challenging those asking the questions to think rather than to just listen. The reason that Jesus challenged this man with this particular question was that the man was well studied in the Law and he would have known almost every portion of it. The man answered Jesus by quoting Deuteronomy 6:5 which stated that they were to love God with everything they had and they were to love their neighbor as themselves. In response, Jesus told the man that He had answered correctly and that if he lived out his answer, he would have the life that he was looking for. Jesus was not teaching a works based salvation, but throughout the Bible it is clear that those who followed God from their heart were truly children of God. Once Christ came and was revealed to be the Savior of men, part of following God with a whole heart included believing on the name of the Son of God and the work that He did on the cross (vs 25-28).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize that you don't have to have great talents or abilities to be used by God? Do you understand that God chooses to use simple people to accomplish great things? This is all part of God's amazing plan. This is a plan that caused Jesus to rejoice as He heard the testimonies of those He had sent out and how they had great power to do great things. Those who followed Jesus were not the elite of the society, but were the common, ordinary people of the day. This gives great hope to you because most likely, you are this common, ordinary person living in a common, ordinary place. Yet, if you choose to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind and choose to love your neighbor as yourself, God can do great and mighty things through you.

Thought for the day

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What do you think it means that Jesus "rejoiced in the Holy Spirit (vs 21 - ESV)?

What did Jesus thank God for (vs 21)?

What did Jesus make clear was the will of God (vs 21)?

How can this be a great comfort and encouragement to you?

What had God given to Jesus (vs 22)?

What do you think the end of verse 22 means?

What did Jesus declare to the disciples (vs 23)?

What had many prophets desired to see (vs 24)?

What do you think Jesus was referring to?

Who tried to test Jesus (vs 25)?

What question did he ask (vs 25)?

How did Jesus respond (vs 26)?

What answer did the lawyer give to Jesus (vs 27)?

Why do you think Jesus didn't say anything about believing in Him like he does in other places?

What did Jesus say the man needed to do to have eternal life (vs 28)?

****Jesus revealed elsewhere that a person could have eternal life if they kept the Law perfectly. By this interaction it is clear that this man was not loving perfectly.*

Why do you think the man wanted to justify himself?

What does this reveal about the way the man chose to love?

"The Good Samaritan"

Study: Luke 10:30-37
Reading: Luke 6:27-36, I John 4:7-12
Memory: 1 John 2:2

What Does the Bible Say?



The Area where the Jericho Road would have been

Though the lawyer clearly stated that God desired all men to love their neighbors, he was quick to qualify this statement and clarify who his neighbors were. He did this by asking Jesus who his neighbor was. In those days, the Jews had developed a very selfish mind set and only showed love to those who could help them and showed incredible hatred towards those who weren't Jews or part of their group. This seemed normal to most of them because this is how they grew up. To answer his question, Jesus responded by giving a parable that has come to be known as the "Parable of the Good Samaritan."

Jesus described how a man was going from Jerusalem to Jericho when he came across some robbers who beat him then took his clothes and money and left him for dead. This was a very real understanding to the people because the road from Jerusalem to Jericho went through the Judean wilderness which was filled with hills and cliffs. It was a place where many robbers and thieves would live because it was very easy to hide and go unnoticed for a long period of time (vs 30).

While the man was lying there, a priest passed by and saw this man. Instead of stopping to help, he moved to the other side and pretended not to notice this man. A Levite also passed by and moved over to the other side of the road to avoid this man. Priests and Levites were to be the

spiritual leaders of the land and were to be the representatives of God to the people, but neither one of them did a thing to stop and help. On the other hand, the man who did choose to stop was a Samaritan. Samaritans were despised by the Jews and often called "dogs" in a derogatory way. The Jews wanted nothing to do with the Samaritans, but when this Samaritan saw a Jew who was in need, he was moved with compassion and stopped to help. He attempted to clean and cover the man's wounds and put him on his own animal. He took the man to an inn where he paid money out of his own pocket to make sure that this man was taken care of as he continued on to whatever business activity he was currently working on. The Samaritan didn't limit his help, but told the innkeeper that he would pay whatever expenses were incurred by the man until he fully recovered (vs 31-35).

The question that Jesus asked next had an obvious answer, but He didn't ask it to get an answer. He asked it to bring conviction to the heart of the lawyer who had been questioning Him about eternal life. The man responded by telling Jesus that the Samaritan acted as a true neighbor to the man who had been beaten. Jesus then responded by telling the lawyer to go and love like the Samaritan chose to love. He was basically saying that everyone was his neighbor and that the command of God to love your neighbor was not limited to a certain group of people (vs 36-37).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you love others like the Samaritan did? Do you love all of those around you, even those who might not like you? Choosing to love like the Samaritan loved is not always easy, but with the power and help of the Holy Spirit you have the ability to love all men. It is often easy to be like the priest and Levite and turn your head the other way, but you must be like the Samaritan and look for ways to help. This does not mean that you have to help everyone in need. There are too many people to be able to help them all, but like the Samaritan, you need to help those who God places in your path. When you see those who are hurting, don't turn the other way, but choose to reach out in love.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Ask God to help you to love like the Samaritan loved.*
* *Thank God for giving you the ability to love in a supernatural way.*

What question did the lawyer ask (vs 29)?

Where was the man in the parable traveling (vs 30)?

What happened to this man (vs 30)?

What did the priest do when he saw the man who was beaten (vs 31)?

What did the Levite do when he saw the man who was hurt (vs 32)?

Why do you think Jesus used a priest and Levite in this parable?

Who had compassion on the man who had been injured (vs 33)?

Why do you think Jesus purposefully used a Samaritan?

What did the Samaritan do for the injured man (vs 34)?

How did the Samaritan go above and beyond to show love (vs 34)?

How did the Samaritan show love even though he had to leave (vs 35)?

Why was this type of love costly to the Samaritan?

What question did Jesus ask the lawyer (vs 36)?

What was the obvious answer (vs 37)?

What did Jesus challenge the lawyer to do?

What did this have to do with eternal life?

What point was Jesus trying to make with this parable?

Taking an honest look at this parable, do you find yourself more like the priest and Levite or like the Samaritan?

***Obviously, most people would want to say the Samaritan, but an honest look at the way you live may surprise you.

"Serving Correctly"

Study: Luke 10:38-42
Reading: John 13:1-17, 21:20-25
Memory: 1 John 2:2

I coached soccer on and off for over 25 years and one thing that I often had to deal with was one of the players becoming upset at another player for not doing his or her job correctly. What normally happened was that a better player would get angry at a player who was still learning because that younger player would make mistakes. As a result, the player who is better often plays worse because he is so upset and bothered by the mistakes of the younger player. Most of this was a result of wrong thinking because the better player thought that everyone should be better players, rather than realizing that all players are gifted differently and are on different learning levels.

Today, we are going to see how it is very easy for us to get bothered by others because they are not doing what we are doing or what we think they should be doing. This is often a result of selfishness as we think that our thing is more important than the call of God on the life of others.

What Does the Bible Say?

We know that Martha, Mary and Lazarus lived in the village of Bethany which was just a few miles east of Jerusalem. We are not sure how Jesus became friends with them or how they became followers of Jesus, but in this passage we see that Jesus entered into their house while traveling through the area. Mary and Martha took two different approaches to Jesus entering their home. Mary sat by the feet of Jesus and listened to His teaching while Martha got busy preparing food and doing what she could to serve Jesus and the guests that were in her house. Neither response was wrong because both were necessary. Yet, we see that Martha's actions became a problem when she started to get bothered that her sister was not helping her. Instead of helping Martha serve, Mary was spending time listening to Jesus and learning from Him. Martha asked Jesus to tell Mary to come help her serve. We are not told directly, but one can imagine the frustration that would have been coming out in the voice and tone of Martha as she felt that she was doing all the work alone. Instead of rebuking Mary for her lack of work, Jesus rebuked Martha for being so anxious and troubled about things that were not that important. He commended Mary for taking the time to sit at His feet to listen and learn. Jesus was not promoting laziness or a lack of service, but was attempting to help Martha and many others see that it is easy to get so caught up in service and forget the reason why we are serving in the first place (vs 38-42).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you a Martha or a Mary, or both? Sometimes Martha gets a bad rap for what she did, but before you jump on the "Martha bashing bandwagon," you must realize that her service was not rebuked. God needs servants. He needs people who are willing to work for Him and He Himself told His disciples that if they were going to be leaders they must first choose to serve one another. The reason that Martha was rebuked was for her attitude. She was rebuked for becoming upset at Mary for not helping her out. She was frustrated because she was doing everything herself and was becoming overwhelmed by the pressure. From the rebuke of Jesus, this appears to be pressure that she placed upon herself that she didn't need to feel. Perhaps she was trying to be too elaborate. Perhaps she felt that every thing needed to be perfect. Perhaps she was just trying to do too much. Jesus wanted her to see that she was working herself up for no reason. Mary was much better off sitting at His feet and learning, not that learning is always better than serving, but that her attitude was so much better. By complaining and getting upset, Martha's service had actually become a problem. The good thing she was trying to do was accomplishing the opposite result.

This is a lesson that all of us need because we all have areas of involvement where it is easy to think that everyone should be helping out because we feel it is so important. There used to be a lady in my church who, during testimony time, would attempt to make other ladies feel guilty because they weren't helping out in the ministry that she was in charge of. Though she didn't mean to do it on purpose, she was giving the idea that her ministry was more important than the calling of God on the lives of the other ladies who were involved in different ministries. There are times for learning and times for service. The vital lesson is to know what God wants you to do and do it with a loving, caring heart regardless if anyone notices or helps you in what you are doing.

Who welcomed Jesus into her home (vs 38)?

****Other interactions with this family reveal that they lived in the village of Bethany. It is interesting to note that Luke makes it sound like the house belonged to Martha. Did Mary live there or was she just visiting? There are many things we simply don't know, but from all indications, Martha would have been older than Mary.*

What was Mary doing (vs 39)?

What was Martha distracted with (vs 40)?

Why do you think that she was consumed with the work that was involved with hosting Jesus in her home?

What question did Martha ask Jesus (vs 40)?

****Though we can't know the tone of her voice, it seems pretty clear from the passage and an understanding of human nature that she was a little upset when she talked to Jesus about this. It is not clear if she asked Mary to help her or simply assumed that Mary should be helping her even if she did not ask. It should also be remembered that in that culture it was the women who did much of the serving while it was often the men would sit and listen to the teaching.*

What did Martha ask Jesus to do (vs 40)?

Why do you think Jesus used Martha's name twice (vs 41)?

What did Jesus declare about her (vs 41)?

What do you think Jesus meant by "one thing is necessary" (vs 42)?

What did Jesus say Mary had done (vs 42)?

What do you think it means that Mary's portion would not be taken away (vs 43)?

What do you think this narrative is teaching?

"Teach Us To Pray"

Study: Luke 11:1-4
Reading: Matthew 6:19-18, John 17:1-26
Memory: 1 John 2:2

What Does the Bible Say?

During the Sermon on the Mount (found in Matthew 6), Jesus instructed the disciples on how to pray, but just like us, the disciples didn't always retain everything they were taught. Though He had been teaching them how to pray all throughout His ministry, they saw Him praying and the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. The phrase "as John taught his disciples" seemed to have some significance, though we are not clear what that was (vs 1).

Jesus responded to this by giving them what is often called the "Lord's prayer." As I mentioned when we studied this in Matthew 6, I believe the prayer Jesus gave in John 17 should be called the "Lord's prayer." What we have in this passage is not Jesus praying, but Him giving His followers an example of things that they should pray for. He began by describing how prayer should be started with reverence, respect and praise. Starting prayer out by understanding who you are praying to encourages you in your prayer because it helps you realize that you are praying to a God who is powerful and has the ability to answer you. If you would study the prayers of the Bible, you will find that most of the prayers began with a time of praise directed toward the great God to Whom the person was praying.

The term "your kingdom come" is a reference to a desire to see God have His way on this earth. In Matthew 6, to this part He added, "thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." When you are praying, you should not seek that your will and your way be accomplished. You are expressing your desire for God to rule and reign and have His way upon the earth (vs 2).

The next part of the prayer described how we should ask God for our daily bread. This is interesting considering that God has promised to meet our daily needs. By praying for our daily bread, we are expressing our reliance upon God to give us what we need to live. We are realizing that all we have comes from Him and if He doesn't provide it, we won't have it. It is partly an act of humility and partly an act of trust (vs 3).

Jesus then went on to tell us how we should ask God to forgive us for our sin. Though all our sins were forgiven when we repented and trusted in Christ, the daily sins that we commit interfere with our daily relationship with God. By asking for forgiveness, we can have a restored relationship and full fellowship with Him. Yet, this forgiveness is also accompanied by the understanding that we need to have a right relationship with our fellow man and forgive them as well. In several other places in Scripture we are told that God will forgive us and restore our relationship with Him on the same level that we forgive others and choose to restore our relationship with them.

The last part given here in Luke seems like an odd request as we are told to ask God not to lead us into temptation. Jesus is not saying that God leads us to sin and that we have to ask God to stop leading us into sin. James 1:13 says, "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God,' for God cannot be tempted with evil, and He himself tempts no one." This request is really asking God to give you the strength to avoid temptations that might come your way. It is asking God to give you power over the evil that Satan will be tempting you with (vs 4).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize the great importance of prayer? Do you understand that Jesus did not make prayer a complex issue? Some people don't pray because they feel that prayer is much too difficult for them, but Jesus presented the great simplicity of prayer in this passage. Prayer is very basic and simple and every believer can practice it. At the same time, prayer can be very deep and challenging, and as believers grow and mature in their faith, their prayers should become deeper. Whether your prayer is a simple prayer by a young believer or a deep prayer by a mature believer, making the steps of prayer given here by Jesus part of your prayer life will help you pray as God desires.

Thought for the day

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What was Jesus doing (vs 1)?

What did the disciples ask Jesus (vs 1)?

Why do you think they mentioned John teaching his disciples (vs 1)?

****We know that Andrew had been a disciple of John the Baptist (John 1:35-40) and most likely John was as well.*

How did Jesus begin his teaching (vs 2)?

Does this mean that we need to repeat exatly what Jesus said?

****I personally believe that Jesus was giving an outline for prayer. If you study the hundreds of prayers given in the Bible, you will find that none are exactly the same. Many contain the components that Jesus gives here in this passage. Other recorded prayers of Jesus are different than this prayer. There is nothing at all wrong with quoting this prayer, but I do not believe it was meant to be the only prayer a person should pray.*

What do you think the first phrase of the prayer is teaching you about prayer (vs 2)?

Why do you think we should pray for God's kingdom to come (vs 2)?

Why do you think we should pray for our daily bread even though God has promised that He would meet our needs (vs 3)?

Why is it important to ask God to forgive us of our sins (vs 4)?

Why is it important that we forgive others who have sinned against us (vs 4)?

Why do you think this idea is mentioned many times in Scripture?

Why do you think Jesus told us to ask God not to lead us into temptation (vs 4)?

"Ask, Seek and Knock"

Study: Luke 11:5-12
Reading: James 4:1-10, John 16:23-27
Memory: 1 John 2:2

Years ago, my oldest daughter who was four at the time, came to me and said, "Dad, I need to show you something." I began to think we might have a problem. I followed her to her bedroom where a gallon of blue paint had tipped over and opened up, spilling all the paint onto the carpet. So much paint was spilled at that spot that the paint was dripping into the basement. Needless to say, it took quite a bit of cleaning up until we got most of the paint out. When I asked my daughter and her cousin what they were trying to do, she told me that they had stacked the cans on each other to reach something in her closet. I then let her know that next time all she needed to do was ask for help.

Today, we are going to see that we don't need to attempt to do things in our own power and strength. When we do, we often make a mess of things, but when we turn to God and ask for help, He will give us what we need because He knows what is best for us.

What Does the Bible Say?

To help illustrate prayer, Jesus gave a parable describing how God hears and answers our prayers. The parable pictured a man who had a friend come to his house at midnight asking for three loaves of bread. The man asking for bread described how his friend had just arrived from a long journey and he had no food in his house to give to his tired guest. Getting a knock on the door at midnight was not pleasant for anyone, especially when that person was already sleeping and having to get up meant that he would take the chance of waking up the rest of the family. Many houses were not large like our houses are today, but consisted of a few rooms where parents and children often slept together. If the man in the house got up, turned on his lamp and searched for bread it could stir the whole house. The man who had been awaken would not get up to give the bread just because the other man was his friend, but because his friend was insistent and persistent on getting some bread, the man would get up and give him what he needed. The point that Jesus was making with this parable is that the man who is in desperate need will ask for help and will be serious about getting help because He knows his inability to accomplish something himself (vs 5-8).

Jesus was not saying that we need to go to the Heavenly Father and bug Him enough for something. He wasn't saying that we need to force God to reluctantly do something He doesn't want to do, but was revealing how when we really need something, we ask for help. God is not reluctant to give us what we need, but often waits until we ask so that it teaches us to trust in Him and rely on Him. When we ask, we will receive. When we seek out an answer we will find it. When we knock on the door, it will be opened to us. Many suggestions have been given about these three levels, but in simplicity Jesus is saying that we need to go to God and He will hear us and give us what we need. These verses do seem to indicate that prayer is often hard work because God wants to grow our faith and trust in Him and consistent prayer is part of that growing process. Sometimes prayer is not just a quick question and answer, but a process that God helps guide us through to grow our faith (vs 9-10).

What we ask for might not always be good for us, but our Heavenly Father knows what we need and He will answer by giving us what is best. Those who ask their earthly father for a fish will not get a snake, nor will they get a scorpion when they ask for an egg. If the earthly father will give what he can to his children, how much more will the Heavenly Father who is pure love give to His children who ask (vs 11-13).

How Does this Apply to Me?

The point of the teaching of Jesus here in the first part of Luke 11 was quite simple – Pray! As you read yesterday, prayer is not some deep complex act that involves great theological understanding. Part of prayer is simply going to God and asking Him to give you what you need. Just as a child goes to his father and asks him for his daily needs, we need to go to our Heavenly Father and ask Him to provide for our daily needs, realizing that we need Him in every area of our life. Prayer is simple, but not easy. You have to be willing to humble yourself and express your need for Him, but prayer often takes work. You have to be willing not to just ask God, but at times you have to seek the answer as well. Again, it is not complex, but it takes time, effort and energy. Yet, when you follow the example that Jesus set before you, you will see the great results of prayer.

What scenario did Jesus present in verse 5?

****The average time it gets dark in the land of Israel is between 6 and 7 p.m. People did not normally stay up to midnight in their homes but often set their schedules by the light and darkness of day. It wouldn't be that this person just went to bed, but that he had been in bed with his family for several hours.*

Why did this man go to his neighbor at midnight (vs 6)?

How did Jesus say the man inside the house would respond when asked to get up and get bread (vs 7)?

What is the reason that the person would get up and out of bed to help meet the need of his neighbor (vs 8)?

****Though this man would care for his neighbor, if the neighbor went away, the man would roll over and go back to sleep. Yet, if the neighbor was insistent and kept knocking at the door, the man would have no other choice but to get up and give this man some bread.*

How did Jesus say we should pray (vs 9)?

What did He says God would do (vs 10)?

Do you think this means we should be like children begging for candy in the store? Explain your answer.

What will an earthly father do for his children (vs 11-12)?

Why do you think Jesus described earthly fathers as "evil" (vs 13)?

What do earthly fathers seek to do for their children?

What point was Jesus making in these verses?

Describe what your prayer life looks like.

What are changes that you need to make in your prayer life?

Memory Verses

1 John 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.