

Scripture: Luke 11:1-13

LD 45 (1)

Singing: 276 – 188 – 141 -- 62

Intro: Do you pray?

A. Praying is not the same as *saying your prayers*

B. Praying is what God expects all of us to do (Luke 18:1; 1 Tim. 2:8)

C. Praying is something many will start too late (Prov. 1:28; Is. 55:6; Heb. 12:17)

PRAYER (1)

I. Why II. How III. What

I. Why do you need to pray?

A. For some it is *chief part of thankfulness which God requires of us.*

1. Who are those 'some'?

2. Where does God teach us that *one chief part of thankfulness* is prayer?

a. Ps. 50:14 – Heb. 13:15 – Eph. 5:20

B. For some because you have been back-sliding in your walk with & for God

1. Where does all backsliding begin? (Prov. 14:14) Where did yours begin?

2. There will be no recovery from back-sliding with returning to prayer

a. return to your 'prayer-closets' (Matthew 6:5-8)

b. reclaim the truth that without Jesus we can nothing (John 15:4-5)

3. Be encouraged: Jesus desires communion with His people: Song 5:2

C. For others it is necessary *because you are not saved*

1. Prayer is absolutely needed to be saved: Rom. 10:13

2. Do you pray or mumble say your prayers?

a. Do you belong to vast majority of church goers who neglect prayer?

b. If you live without a true prayer life, you are like the beast of field

3. Warning: *praying to God while living for the world and neglecting the use of means of grace* is a **high offense to God**

a. hear what God speaks to you in Is. 1:11-15 – 58:1-4 – Ps. 50:16

b. be warned not to mock or tempt God in *praying without doing*

Take Away: Do you pray?

A. Don't answer: *I don't know how to pray*

B. Don't answer *I cannot pray till I have faith and new heart and I wait for that*

C. God God's own direction in Hosea 14

WORTHWHILE SAYINGS ON PRAYER

Turn the Bible into prayer (M'Cheyne)

Prayer is not wrestling with God's reluctance to bless us.

It is laying hold of His willingness to do so.

The reason why we obtain no more in prayer is because we expect no more.

When the Lord is to lead a soul to greater faith, He might leave prayers unanswered for a time. (Andrew Murray)