

THE BIG IDEA CURRICULUM

Talking with God – “Authentic Prayer”

Sermon 25th April 09 - Clark Riggins

Small Group Study for Week of 26th April – 2nd May

The sermon this week discussed how a disciple of Jesus is able to talk to God in spite of the baggage they may carry. The catch phrase was a sentence from John Bunyan:

“When you pray, rather let your heart be without words than your words be without heart.”

The Big Idea: It is better to come to God and speak words from the heart (no matter what condition it is in) than to just speak a bunch of rhetoric.

We looked at three psalms and saw how David:

1. prayed in anger as a victim of the schemes of an enemy
2. confessed to God as a perpetrator of a social, and spiritual crime and sin
3. spoke to God exactly what was on his heart.

Psalm 139 revealed to us that this attitude of prayer in David was because he understood that God sees and understands every part of humanity, both physical and mental. The final verses show how David embraced this:

Psalm 139:23 ‘Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts’

Psalm 139:24 ‘See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting’.

Question: 1. How does the foundation David has laid for authentic prayer affect the way we see the Lord’s prayer?

Option 1

Groups Reads: Luke 11:1-13

2. *“What is something that stands out in this text for you?”*

Read through the text again

3. *“What is God revealing to me personally about prayer and my relationship with Him?”*

Read the text through one last time

4. *“What am I going to do about what God has revealed to me tonight in relation to prayer?”*

Option 2

Group Reads: Luke 11:1-13

5. "How does the parable in the centre of this text give light to how we should pray?"
6. "What, according to the last part of this text, does Jesus say the Father wants to give us?"
7. "How do both these answers relate to how the Lord's Prayer can improve the authenticity of our prayers?"