

Sermon Outline

The School of Prayer, Part Two

Luke 18:1-8

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Christ's praying inspired his disciples to prayer – and it can do so now. When we pray, whether alone or together, we enter into the mystery of Christ's intercession and take up our position as a priestly people. Let us pray!

- Talking to the Wall
- “You Americans don't know much about...”
- Review –
 - Intimate and Reverent Prayer: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name”
 - Trinitarian Prayer: “Prayer is not simply something done by us, but rather what is done by the Holy Spirit in us.” – Henri Nouwen; Romans 8:26 ff
 - NIKE Prayer – just do it!

I. *Thy Kingdom Come – Our Supreme Concern*

A. Present Reality and Future Hope

1. Not “of” this world, but certainly “for” this world
2. “No” to the pessimillennialists and Gnostics; “no” to the liberals and utopians
3. “Yes” to the embrace of “heaven AND earth”
 - “If we aim at earth we lose heaven; but if we aim at heaven we will have the earth thrown in.” – C.S. Lewis

B. Internal Rule and External Demonstration – Luke 17:21; Galatians 2:20

C. Farewell sectarianism and nationalism, hello Christendom

D. Farewell to “My will,” hello to his.

- ***The first thing that happens in prayer is SURRENDER.***

II. *Our Daily Bread Supply – Our Insatiable Hunger*

- In the place of surrender my *genuine needs and hungers* can be addressed by God. Without “Thy kingdom come,” “daily bread” becomes complaining in the wilderness about a lack of Egyptian meat and potatoes.

- “Lend me three loaves...I have nothing to set before him...”

A. Manna Daily – wilderness and promised land

B. Scriptures Daily

C. Christ Daily – the “true bread” of heaven

- The “secret of contentedness” – Philippians 4:11

- ***The second thing that happens in prayer is PROVISION***

III. *Our Sins Forgive – Our Greatest Need*

A. “As We Forgive”

B. Redemption by his blood – pierced for our transgressions – Isaiah 53; Ephesians 1-2; 1 Peter 2:24.

- “Freely you have received, freely give” – Matthew 10

- “Forgiving one another, just as God in Christ has forgiven you...” – Ephesians 4:32

- ***The third thing that happens in prayer is MERCY***

IV. *Our Temptations Thwart – Our Terrible Foe*

A. “Deliver us from the evil one...”

B. Samson's Riddle

C. Christus Victor, Crucis Victor: In Hoc Signa Vincas

- ***The fourth thing that happens in prayer is WARFARE***

V. *Saying “Amen” – Our Glorious Affirmation*

- “So be it.”

- The answer to all our prayers – “The Holy Spirit comes to those who ask him!”