

PRAYER: IN A WAY, AREN'T WE ALL JUST BEGINNERS?

This Sunday's sermon wraps-up our series on growing deeper in God/Spiritual Disciplines. Kirk McVay will deliver the message and guide us through the scriptures on prayer. When it comes to prayer, in a sense, aren't we all just beginners? I don't mean in the sense that we repeat the same basic prayers at meals and bedtime but in the sense that we all must come before God in humility and reliance on the Holy Spirit.

Beginners in prayer come before God with the right attitude. In Luke 11:1 the disciples walk-up on Jesus as he was finishing private prayer time with his Father. They asked him the most basic prayer question: "Lord (would you) teach us to pray?". I think there was something new and refreshing that the disciples saw and heard in Jesus' prayers.

Let me give you another example of why we are just beginners. In Luke 18 Jesus tells a parable about two men praying. Their attitudes could not be more opposite. One was a Pharisee; one was a tax collector. Both went to the Temple to pray. The Pharisee said: "Lord, I thank-you that I am not like all the sinners...I fast and pay my taxes...". The tax collector was so aware of his sin that he stood a distance from the Temple and prayed: "God have mercy on me, a sinner". You know whose prayer was answered. The true pray-er is just a beginner, humble and aware of their need for God's mercy.

Have you ever found it difficult to pray because you didn't know what or how to pray? Remember Romans 8:26-27, here we have the promise of God through Paul that the Spirit helps us in our weaknesses. A beginning pray-er surely realizes he/she needs help in prayer. In Closing words...model our prayers after the prayer of Jesus in John 17. Do not forget to pray for all present believers and all future believers.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Mike

Prayer: Dan Kopp (surgery decision today), Dick Fisher, Revival
In Our Church

Events: We need Christmas bell choir members! Sunday, December
11 evening Advent worship service