

PRAYING ONSITE FOR INSIGHT

SERMON OUTLINE

Introduction

- What do you see? • What does God see? • What might God want?

John 4:4 – (Jesus) ... had to go through Samaria.

Four biblical considerations to prepare us for prayer walking:

1. Consider whether or not we have a “vision gap.”

John 4:27 – ... his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman.

John 4:35 – (Jesus) “ ... open your eyes and look... (the fields) are ripe for harvest.”

Ephesians 1:18 – I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened ...

2. Consider why this activity should matter to us.

See Genesis 18: 16ff – Abraham prays for Sodom.

Romans 3:10 – ... There is no one righteous, not even one ...

Acts 17:26 – “From one man (God) made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.”

John 4:38 – (Jesus to the disciples) “I sent you...”

Matthew 28:19 – (Jesus) “...go and make disciples of all nations...”

See Luke 9:1-6; 10:1-20 – Jesus sends not only the 12 but also the 72.

3. Consider your expectations (and willingness to release them).

John 4:37-38 – (Jesus) 37 ... the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. 38 ... Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”

John 5:19 – (Jesus) “ ... (the Son) can do only what he sees his Father doing.”

4. Consider what it will take from you to be part of it.

John 4:6 – ... Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

Luke 10:2 (NCV) – (Jesus) “There are a great many people to harvest, but there are only a few workers. So pray to God, who owns the harvest, that he will send more workers to help gather his harvest.”

Purposeful reflecting...

- Continue the “silence experiment” daily. Ask the Lord to speak, then spend five minutes in silence. (Use a timer!) Notice what you notice (maybe take notes).

Experience

- What struck you as personally significant in the message? How might God be speaking to you through that?
- What feelings surface in you as you learn more about the invitation to join in the prayer experiment? Are these feelings positive, negative or neutral? What do these feelings indicate about your heart? Do they suggest anything you should pray about? If so, do that now.
- When you imagine praying for people outside the church, perhaps far outside, people who are indifferent or even hostile, what reactions surface in you? Pay attention to those reactions and turn them into a prayer to have more of Jesus’ perspective as your own.

Transform

- Review the conversion of Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:1-19). What does his story suggest about our ability to predict whether or not someone might be open to God’s message of grace? How does this story challenge or affirm how you view those outside the faith?
- The Samaritan woman had no theological training and only a brief spiritual encounter with Jesus. Yet John 4:39 says “many... believed in (Jesus) because of the woman’s testimony.” How does this affirm or challenge how you usually think of sharing the message of Jesus with others?

Share

- Reflect on the recent course of your spiritual journey. Where have you seen the Lord at work (i.e., glory sightings)? Ask the Lord to show you someone you could share that with and take an opportunity to do so.
- If you plan to commit to the prayer experiment, tell someone about your plan, and explain to him or her anything you think he or she might find interesting or relevant.