

Aveleigh's Year of the Bible, August 12- 2018
Sermon Series: LIVING THE LIFE
Sermon: WHY PRAY?

Texts Res. Ps. 86: 1-16 & Luke 14:18 – Isaiah 61:1-4

In Mat. 4:18 Jesus announced His Mission on earth by reading from Isaiah 61:1-4
“God's Spirit is on me. He's chosen me to preach the good news to the poor,
to announce freedom to those held captive, to give recovery of sight to the blind,
to set the burdened and battered free, to proclaim that this is the time of God's Favor!”
Luke 4:18 (MES)

EXAMPLES OF WHAT PRAYER CAN DO FOR YOU

1. WHEN THE ISRAELITES GOT IMPATIENT & REBELLIOUS

“ . . . Then the people grew impatient on the way and they began to murmur and complain against God and Moses. Why did you lead us here? . . . We hate where we are, and we hate the food! . . . So God sent poisonous snakes to punish them and many became sick and died from the bites. Then the people confessed 'We have sinned. . . PRAY FOR US!'” So Moses PRAYED for them . . . Then God told Moses to make a bronze staff.. and when those who'd been bitten looked (in faith) to Moses' staff they lived! Numbers 21:4-9 NIV

In prayer, we can recover from problems we cause by our own impatience.

2. WHEN JEROBOAM WAS UPSET HEARING A HARD TRUTH

“So King Jeroboam stretched out his hand in anger against the Man of God who had told him the truth and it instantly became paralyzed. . . The king cried out 'PRAY FOR ME!' So the man of God PRAYED to the Lord, and the king's hand was restored!” 1 Kings 13:4-6 NIV

With prayer we receive restoration when we're paralyzed by our emotions.

3. WHEN HEZEKIAH WAS TOLD HE'D NEVER RECOVER

“In those days King Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. Isaiah the prophet went to him and said, "The Lord says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die. You are NOT going to recover!" BUT Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and he PRAYED, pleading to the Lord, 'Remember Lord, how I've walked before you faithfully with wholehearted devotion and I've done what is good in your eyes.' And Hezekiah wept loudly as he prayed. Then, before Isaiah had even left the king's court, God's word came to him again: 'Go back and tell Hezekiah 'I've heard your PRAYER and I've seen your tears. You WILL RECOVER and I WILL heal you . . . I'm going to add fifteen years to your life! ALSO I'm going to deliver you and this city from Assyria's domination.' . . . so Hezekiah recovered.” 2 Kings 20:1-7

With prayer, we can recover even when other people tell us it'll never happen.

4. WHEN TWO BLIND MEN CRIED OUT TO JESUS

“Two blind men were sitting by the roadside when they heard that Jesus was passing by. So they cried out, ‘Lord, have mercy on us!’ The crowd rebuked them, telling them to be silent, but they prayed even louder ‘Lord, have mercy on us!’ . . . Jesus stopped and said, “What do you want me to do for you?” They said ‘We don’t want to be blind anymore! Give us sight!’ With deep compassion, Jesus touched their eyes, and immediately they received their sight and they followed him.” Matthew 20:30-34 NIV

In prayer, we receive a new vision and see things we could never see before.

5. WHEN PETER HAD HIS MASSIVE PUBLIC FAILURE

(Predicting Peter’s fall) “Simon, stay on your toes. Satan has tried his best to separate all of you from me, like chaff from wheat. Simon, I’ve prayed for you in particular that you not give in or give out. When you have come through the time of testing, turn to your companions and give them a fresh start.” Luke 22:31-32 MSG

In prayer, we can fully return, even from our failures to help others.

6. WHEN JOB LOST LITERALLY EVERYTHING

“After the Lord had finished speaking to Job, he said to Eliphaz, “I’m angry with you and your two friends, because you did not speak the truth about me, the way my servant Job did. Now I want you to make a sacrifice . . . and JOB WILL PRAY FOR YOU! THEN I will answer his prayer and not disgrace you the way you deserve . . . So Job’s 3 friends did what the Lord told them to do, and the Lord answered JOB’S PRAYER. Then, when Job prayed for his friends, the Lord restored Job’s health and prosperity, and Job recovered twice as much as he had before his pain.” Job 42:7-10

Our recovery is only complete when we pray for the recovery of others.

PRAYER: Living God, I receive your commissioning as a rebuildler, a restorer, and a renewer. Because I know what prayer can do. Amen.

FOUR FOR THE ROAD,

1. Share a time you have missed an opportunity because of your impatience for change to happen.
2. Why did the complaining of the people displease God?
3. Give an instance when you have been emotionally overwhelmed and prayer provided restoration.
4. Why do we not consider prayer as the first step to repair and renew?

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Leader: For those who have not been welcomed before,

People: You are welcomed by Christ here.

Leader: For those who have been turned away,

People: Christ is opening the door for you.

Leader: For those who have been forgotten,

People: God cannot forget you, for God made you.

Leader: Come, join together in worship of our God.

People: You are God's beloved. We welcome each other in the name of Christ. Amen.

Prayers of Confession General

Spirit of God, we confess that we put on airs more often than we put on the armor of God. We are guilty of girding ourselves with lies instead of the truth. We try to protect ourselves with arrogance, superstition and self-reliance instead of righteousness, faith and your gift of salvation. Our footsteps do not follow your path of peace. And we are quick to use your Word to attack one another, instead of striking out against the sins we personally commit. Forgive us, Holy God. Gift us with the wisdom and strength to change our ways, so that we may live as your faithful ambassadors of the Good News.

Mitch's pastoral prayer,,,, God, we have come together in your name today as your people, your children. It is in your name that we ask for your work in the life of each person here. We ask for your comfort and peace, life and breath, hope and joy. We ask that you give us your strength, because we know that we are nothing without you. God, pour out your Spirit on your people so that they will know they are never apart from you. Thank you for seeing, knowing and loving each person. May we tangibly experience your presence today. Amen.

Aug. 12 texts

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to preach the good news to the poor,
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Luke 4:18 (MES)

“ . . . and to heal the brokenhearted . . . to comfort all who mourn . . . and to give beauty for
ashes and joy and gladness instead grief! . . . Then they will rebuild the ancient ruins, they will
restore the devastated places, and they will renew the ruined cities!” Isaiah 61:1-4 (GW)