



AIM HIGH

February 28, 2010

We had a great group this past Sunday – not that you aren't always a great group. For those of you reading this who weren't with us, we'd love to have you back. You know who you are and so do we!!!

The Church focus for this month is Olivet March Madness. To make a long story short, our goal is "each one reach one." I hope you know from experience how nice it is to be missed. If you don't know, then shame on us. We each need to be calling or visiting those who have either dropped out or just gotten lazy. Hebrews 10:25 says "Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

If you look at the sheets that are handed out on Wednesday night (and if you don't come on that night – well, you should), we always have "0" contacts for our class. Shame on you and shame on me! Can we do better this week?

The Class Project for the month of March is to gather detergent for the Ministry Center. Bring it in people!

The Class Project for May will be to raise money for Special Olympics. Get your pocketbooks loosened up again.

I picked up Tom Holladay's book "The Relationship Principles of Jesus" again this morning and began re-reading the chapter entitled "God in the Conversation." It is about prayer. For

the next few weeks I'm going to be quoting from Mr. Holladay's chapter on prayer. If you've already read it, it won't hurt to hear it again. I sincerely believe most people today have very little idea how to pray mostly because no one has ever taught them. "One of the most vital aspects of your communication with people is prayer. More important than the way you talk to someone is the way you talk to God about them. The way you talk to God about the people in your life will determine such things as your ability to let go of a hurt, the eyes of faith through which you look at the future, and the wisdom you have as you make decisions. Yet prayer is not always seen as such a powerful change agent. The experience of many is that prayer seems boring and routine, an exercise reserved for bedtimes and bad times.

Prayer is like driving. Everyone thinks they're good at it – until they're in the presence of an expert. When Jesus' disciples heard Him pray, everything changed. Prayer probably hadn't meant much to them, they saw it in the domain of religious men in fancy dress on street corners and of paid representatives at funerals. Prayer was a show, a kind of spiritual medal to be worn proudly and openly. Then along came Jesus. He'd get up early to pray when faced with the busiest of days (Mark 1:35). He prayed a prayer of thanks over a few loaves and fishes, and five thousand men were fed (Mark 6:41). He went to a mountain to pray and was met by Moses and Elijah (Luke 9:28). Having seen all this, the disciples followed Jesus one day and stood in hushed respect as their Master prayed on a hillside. They knew who He was talking to, and so they wouldn't think of interrupting. But when Jesus was done, one of them made the request that was on everyone's mind: 'Lord, teach us to pray.' (Luke 11:1). Class was in session.



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While there is so much to say about prayer, I want to focus here on how Jesus treated prayer as a relationship. Many common misconceptions about prayer can easily creep into our thinking. Some view prayer as a magic wand; wave it correctly and get whatever you want. Others see prayer as just a first-aid kit – something to break into ‘only in case of an emergency.’ For some, prayer is a last resort for others, it’s a tug-of-war – a game played with God to convince Him to do something. And many who would accept none of these other false concepts of prayer struggle with the most dangerous lie of all, namely, that prayer is simply a duty. ‘I should pray more,’ they say, ‘but my heart just isn’t in it.’

Jesus taught that prayer is a conversation. Now that’s refreshing! Let’s go a step further and ask, ‘What kind of a conversation? What can we learn from Jesus about the way in which we are to talk with God?’ In Jesus’ example and teaching, three words mark the tone of our conversation with God: *persistence, confidence, and reverence.*”
(to be continued next week)

Prayer List

- Reba Ludiker and Debbie Pitts as they help care for their father
- Shar Oswalt – health issues (Chappelle)
- Rex Teague family (Perkins)
- Dave Morrow – back out
- Scott family (G. Hitchcock)
- Barbara H – cancer (Chappelle)
- Passion Week Services
- Charlie Ridener - unspoken

- Barbara’s parents as they adjust to the retirement facility
- Rich Lembke – recovery from back surgery
- Brandi Lembke – family issues.
- Selph’s son – baby due soon
- Bill F (Larry Shope’s uncle) – health issues
- Claudia S (Cheryl Hillsberry’s aunt) – health issues
- Barbara’s niece, Holly - high risk pregnancy
- Dunaway family (Pickerel)
- Theresa Morrow – unspoken
- Larry Cook
- Gerald’s sister Karen – falling
- Don C - health issues (Johnson)
- Monet (Greg Hitchcock’s friend) – marriage and family issues
- Ginger Morrow – health issues

SEE YOU SUNDAY???