

Application Guide: A Day in the Life of Jesus

June 13, 2004: “A Day in the Life of Jesus” by Pastor Don Bartemus, Pastor Christian Education & Compassion Ministries. Pastor presented an expository message on Luke 18 and divided his message into 4 components: How do speak to God (v1-14), how to live with God (v15-30), how to hear God (v31-34) and how to exercise our faith in God (v35-43).

A. How do you speak to God? In v1-8, Jesus told his disciples the parable of a Judge and Widow, to show them that they should pray and not give up.

1. How do you pray? How often? Do you persist?
2. What is God’s promise to those who cry out to him?
3. How can we apply this principle to our prayer life?

B. What should be the attitude of our heart when we pray? To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told a parable of two men going to the temple to pray, in v9-14. By contrast their approach differed in the attitude of their heart:

Pharisee

Self-exalting

Stands in front (for show)

Prayer about his own good

Unjustified (God displeased with him)

Jesus promises to humble those like him

Tax Collector

Humble

Unwilling to look up (for shame)

Prayer about his need for God

Justified (God pleased with his contrition)

Jesus promises to exalt people like him

1. Do you know of people who are self righteous and look down on others? Are people drawn toward them, or away from them?
2. What is the attitude of your heart when you come before the Lord in prayer? Are people drawn toward you, or away from you?
3. On what should be the focus of our prayers?

C. How are we to live with God? In v15-17, Jesus challenges his disciples to learn from the children who are coming to him, rather than getting frustrated and rebuking their parents.

1. What do you suppose Jesus wanted his disciples to learn and apply from this passage?
2. How does a child live? What are the qualities that Pastor Don mentioned?
3. How should we then live?

D. What often gets in the way of fully realizing the benefits of a life dependent upon God? In v18-30, Jesus responds to the question of “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

1. What must we do? On whom does eternal life rest?
2. What often gets in our way of fully depending on God?
3. What are the benefits of following Christ? In our lives today? In the future?

E. How are we to hear God? In v31-34, Jesus took his disciples aside and told them what was to come, but they did not understand. Pastor Don suggests that for us to hear God, we need to hear the way he speaks, and look at things from God's perspective. As the serpent was lifted up and people were healed (according to the writings of Moses), so shall the Son of God be lifted up and through him we shall be saved.

1. What kept the disciples from understanding what Jesus was saying?
2. What gets in our way of hearing/understanding the things of God?
3. What might we do differently to be more receptive to what God would have us learn?

F. How are we to exercise our faith in God? In v35-43, Jesus, stops along the path to Jericho and heals a blind man who by faith called out to him, even when those around him were encouraging (rebuking) him and telling him to be quiet. But like...

- the widow who persisted in making her desires known,
- the tax collector in the temple who asked God, to have mercy on him, a sinner,
- the little ones who desired to come to Jesus in childlike faith,

...the blind man knew all things are possible with God and as he cried out to Jesus, Son of David, to have mercy on him, he was exercising his faith by acting upon what he knew and heard about the miracles that Jesus was performing along his journey through the land.

Pastor Don, encouraged us to exercise our faith in God and put our faith and hope in him by...

- Keeping alert,
- Being persistent and keep on asking,
- Acting on faith and the facts that you know,
- Being ready with specifics, and
- Giving God the praise

Prayer Time: As we go to prayer, perhaps as the blind man asked specifically what he would like Jesus to do, we should also be specific when asking God to help us and/or others. The blind man already believed Jesus could and would heal him, and when it came to pass he immediately began praising God.

1. When you pray, do you find yourself using phrases like "Lord, just bless" so-and-so or "be with" so-and-so without asking for specifics? If so, pretend you are like the blind beggar, and ask him for specific things. As you ask, draw upon what you know from God's word that he would want you to do.
2. How can you use particular Scripture verses to pray? What are some of the advantages of using God's word for praying (talking) to Him?

As you go to prayer this evening, remember to pray for Pastor Kimber. Specific things include his health, his mind renewal, his family, and the people of College Park Church that he so dearly loves and cares for.