



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Prayer Walk Mall Series, Lesson 20

Lesson Title: Talking to God Helps Us Have a Closer Walk with Him

Take Home Point: Receive a closer walk with God through prayer.

Warm-Up:

Imagine a small group of people asking you to mentor them so they can follow in your steps. You are glad to help them, so you make appropriate arrangements to teach, guide, and build relationships. You write your thoughts down, including encouragement, direction, wisdom you've collected, warnings, and relevant stories from your past. You repeatedly encourage these people to call on you any time to ask questions, request assistance, share their troubles and difficulties, or just talk. But also imagine they never do any of those things! They don't read your writings, they don't drop by or call or spend time with you, except on rare occasions when they apologize for not doing more, and they really want to but they are so very busy. How would you feel?

Read: Luke 11:1-10; Psalm 50:15; 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Observation (What happened?):

What was Jesus doing when his disciples asked his help?

According to 1 Thessalonians 5:17, how often are we to be in prayer?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think the disciples wanted Jesus to teach them to pray?

What is the point of the Parable Jesus told them?

Insight:

So why do you think the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray? These men were good solid Jewish citizens who no doubt regularly attended the synagogue and were taught the prayer strategies and methods of their teachers. What was different? Jesus was different. The crowds that followed Jesus knew he was different. Read what it says in Matthew 7:28-29: *"When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law."* The disciples knew Jesus was different, and so was his approach to the Father. Remember his parable of the two men praying in the temple? (You can read it in Luke 18:10-14.) The standard approach of the Jewish leaders was rejected. The disciples wanted more than what they had been taught; they hungered to know the Father that Jesus knew. It was a priority for them to develop a closer walk with God. How do we know it was a priority? Because they asked. And I imagine Jesus was overjoyed at their request.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How often do you talk to God? What kind of things do you talk about?

Name one thing you have requested of God in the past week. Has he answered? If so, how? If not, what are you going to do?

Kingdom Quest year 2