

James 5:13-18

Sermon 1: Prayer: At All Times

Undivided Attention To God

- James, throughout the book, highlights the problem of not being wholly devoted to God

Praying When Suffering, Singing When Cheerful (v13)

- we are to walk with God at all times – the inability to remain with God at certain times shows our need for growth
- Clement of Alexandria: prayer is “keeping company with God”

Desperate Dependence Leading To Songs Of Praise

- Jehoshaphat’s prayer (2 Chronicles 20:1-30; note v12)
- Romans 5:6-11
- action items: a) develop a Biblically based theology of God and humanity b) be persistent

Questions for Reflection

1. Do you pray at all times or on all types of occasions? When is it most difficult for you to pray?
2. If you want to make prayer a priority, what changes will you need to make? In your daily routine? In your thinking? In the ways you pray?
3. James is concerned with half-hearted devotion to God and the inconsistencies it brings into our lives. What areas of your life is God not a part of (or only a small part of)? What will it look like to walk with God throughout the whole of your day?
4. In 2 Chronicles 20:12 Jehoshaphat prays “O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.” Memorize this verse, meditate on it, and bring it to mind whenever you face any challenges in the upcoming weeks.
5. In Romans 5:11 Paul writes “we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.” Since Jesus reconciles us to God, how can prayer (“keeping company with God”) become a more regular part of your relationship with God? If what Jesus has done is so hopeful for us, how can rejoicing become a more ordinary part of your life (beyond happiness that depends on circumstances)?