



Why We Need A Circle

Opening Question:

Have you ever witnessed anyone ask for anything with "shameless audacity" or "unembarrassed boldness"? What was it? Did it work?

Read Luke 11:5-10

How do you resonate (or not) with this reading of Jesus's teaching in Luke 11 and its connection to Luke 18:1-8 (the parable of the persistent widow)?

What is the "cultural gap" or difference between the hospitality in Jesus' parable and how we practice hospitality in our culture? In Jesus' day the host would be driven to acts of "shameless audacity" in order to feed his guest. Would you be worried about feeding an expected guest at midnight? What would you do?

Keeping in mind that Jesus knew his disciples really well, what sort of possibilities can you draw up regarding the state of their prayer life based on the parable that Jesus told them? In what ways does Jesus want them to grow?

Can you identify with the disciples and their present prayer life? Why or why not?

What is your biggest take-away from Jesus' lesson about prayer here?

In lifting up the directional wisdom that Jesus gives us in Luke 11, Pastor Silverio made the following observations about being persistent in prayer:

1. Being persistent in prayer is better than being persistent in worry
2. Being persistent in turning to the Lord is better than any alternative (especially bad habits)
3. Being persistent in prayer is better for our relationship with God than persistence in spiritual slumber

Do any of these observations resonate with you? Why or why not?

Application:

Are you coming to a deeper and richer understanding of the interconnectivity between a life of persistent "circling" prayer, seeing spiritual growth, and faithfulness to God?

How do you articulate this?

Prayer

- Share praises and prayer requests with one another.

Guided prayer: God, help us make room for persistent "circle" prayer. Help us come to you with as much faith and intentionality as we do when we after other things we are shamelessly trying to make happen. As we persist in showing up before you, may you grow us and draw us closer to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.