

Our Mandate: A House of Prayer

Text: Mark 11:15-19

April 19, 2020

Big Idea: B/c God's house is to be a house of prayer, we must be devoted to this.

Context is key:

Question #1

What is the context of this passage...a) When and where does it take place?b) Who are the main characters?c) What is the situation in the passage?d) What would be going through the minds of the characters?

e) What does this passage tell us about the character of God?

Question #2

Prayer is: The people of God, seeking the presence of God, being filled with the power of God to behold the purposes of God.

A.Would this describe your view and experience of prayer? Why/Why not?

B.Why is the presence of God to be our greatest pursuit through prayer?

What Scriptures can you find to support this?

C.What are the things that you primarily seek God for through prayer?

To be a house of prayer, we must remain...

Point 1: DEVOTED to what MATTERS to God: REVERENCE (vv. 15-17)

Question: God will dwell with those who seek Him. Are you devoted or distracted?

Question #3

To be a house of prayer, we must live with devotion to God's....

i) HOLINESS: God's presence in prayer (vv. 15-16)

Quote: "God's purity in us, leads to God's presence with us which leads to God's power through us."

A.In what ways did Jesus purify the temple? Why did He take these measures?

B.Share Scriptures that tell us God's promises to those who approach Him with a pure heart.

c) Where are you, as God's temple, not walking in purity and are quenching His presence and power in and through you as you pray?

ii) WORD: God's will in prayer (v. 17a)

A. God's Word is His provision for our prayers. Why is it crucial that we let it be our basis for prayer?

B. Does your life reflect an increasing devotion to God's Word? What is a next step you can take?

iii) MISSION: God's heart for prayer (v. 17b)

A. How had the Jewish leaders drifted from God's mission to be a house of prayer for all nations?

B. Are your prayers mainly focused on yourself, or for others to call on the Name of the Lord?

C. What step(s) can you take this week to reflect more of God's heart for the nations in prayer?

To be a house of prayer, we must be...

Point 2: ALERT to the ENEMY against God: OPPOSITION (vv. 18-19)

Question: Devotion will lead to opposition. Will you stay devoted?

Question #4

Quote: The enemy doesn't need to destroy God's people, he just needs to distract them.

A. When and why did the opposition rise up against Jesus in the temple?

B. Should we be fearful of the enemy's opposition when we devote ourselves to prayer? Find Scriptures that emphasize God's promises to protect us and overcome the enemy.

C. Are you devoted to or distracted from being a house of prayer? Share with your group some steps you can take this week, grow in your prayer life.

House of Prayer: Application

Find Scripture that speaks to each area, and spend focused time in prayer together as a group or in accountability, specifically for...

- A. **God's PRESENCE to be our greatest pursuit in prayer.**
- B. **God's PURITY to be an increasing priority for prayer.**
- C. **God's POWER to increasingly flow through prayer.**
- D. **God's PROTECTION as we devote ourselves to prayer.**
- E. **An increasing DEVOTION to God's Word in prayer.**
- F. **And increasing HEART for God's Mission in prayer.**

Memory verse

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”

-Colossians 4:2