

1941

# Notes: Lenten Address: Holy Week: Thursday: What Does Prayer Do? (Luke 11:5-13)

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St. Louis 1941 - Thursday

1. A magazine placed an investigator on a busy street corner - look into the faces of people as they pass by - He found six things: 1. Hurry. 2. Illness 3. Weariness. 4. Worry 5. Boredom 6. Suspicion - not surprising - we reflect the world in which we live - and yet - there must have been some Christians in those rushing crowds - no reflection - is it possible that our religion, our faith does not break through into the routine of living - the little things - the things which added up make life itself -
2. Often true - our faith does not break through - yesterday I spoke of another chance - a man came "If only our Christian people would give another chance" - that must be a difference - that is why the world scoffs at the Church - Get how they love -
3. One of the reasons - we do not pray enough - pray the mysterious power given the Christian heart to draw God down into the little ways of life - to have Him walk with us - to speak to Him - our <sup>or the greater privilege</sup>
4. Clear! Prayer is communion with God in the name of J.C. - Two things about that - rattle them off
- a) Communion with God - in prayer you are face to face with the Creator & Ruler of the Universe, the Unseen & Allseeing, - holds the stars - vast, measureless distances - the inconceivably long vistas of eternity - all the loneliness & hate & indifference of the world - & across them all - the pain in your heart - that disappointment - that thankless - no higher privilege than that -
- b) Why can we do that? - through J.C. - the Cross - hands - My God is like Jesus - no thought of light years - but only of Power - you & me

The greatness  
of it -

prays for us -

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1. First thing prayer does - keeps us in communion with God - close to Him because it is an expression of faith - profoundly significant - our hearts recorded prayers all begin with "Father" - all except on "My God" close to Him - He gave us the power to say "Father".
2. A strange mysterious power - all the great men & women - not the monastic Carriers - but St. Paul - Augustine - Luther - they lived with God - you can't beat them because God cannot be beaten - cannot dismay them - cannot make them afraid - they will not crumble - Medieval plays "Enter God".
3. I have not experienced this power - I wonder if too often we do not start at the wrong end - "Seek & ye shall find" - line that up with the words of our Lord - a golden afternoon - "Seen ye first" - order of petitions in Lord's Prayer - His Name - His kingdom etc.
4. Perhaps the trouble here is with our faith - prayer is one of the greatest privileges of our religion - & the greater a privilege the more childishness must be our approach to it. Hence especially "Except ye become as little children" - The boy praying for a bicycle at Christmas - The problem of unanswered prayer - great correspondence - Yes, No, Wait a while - God's way never our way - long & roundabout - Only two prayers when answer is always Yes - "God be merciful" and "thy will be done" -
5. Tomorrow I hope to say a few words about the perfect prayer - dying thing - "Lord remember me" - When you I pray - we are asking God to remember - all our pain & our loneliness, our fears & our heartbreak, our little things which are great to us & great to Him like saw a sparrow fall -

It gives

you say

And He will remember, He very surely will -