

Lord, Teach Us to Pray

What About Unanswered Prayer

(Matthew 7:7-11)

- Introduction:
1. If we have lived long enough, we have wrestled with our prayers “going unanswered.”
 2. Yet, when we read Matthew 7:7-11, prayer seems to be almost a guarantee of the thing you desire.
 3. So, for many, it causes doubts, which leads to a lack of prayer.
 4. Ills. of Letter I received (Psalm 13:1-2).
 5. What are we to make of “unanswered prayers?”

I. Don't Discount Answered Prayers

- A. What might our lives look like if God's providence were not involved?
- B. (Romans 8:28).
- C. (Daniel 10:13).

II. We Cannot Judge God's Activity

- A. (Job 38-40).
- B. The Book of Habakkuk.
- C. Ills. of Football game

III. Consider God's Perspective

- A. How many contradictory prayers do you suppose God hears?
- B. Ills. praying for death while the church prays for life.

IV. Death & Illness Are Sometimes Good

- A. The fall has brought sickness and death into this world and that is inescapable.
- B. (Isaiah 57:1-2).
- C. (Psalm 119:67,71).
- D. (2 Kings 22:18-20).

V. Sometimes God's Answer is "Wait"

- A. (Exodus 14:1-4).
- B. (Luke 1:5-11).

VI. Sometimes God Gives Us Something Different

- A. (2 Corinthians 12:7-9).

- Conclusion:
1. I find it amazing that Jesus prayed for us 2000 years ago.
 2. In fact, he is still making intercession and mediation for us, today (Romans 8:34; 1 Timothy 2:5).