



Sermon Outline
September 18, 2022
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Begin with Prayer

The top three qualities our friends and neighbors say they value in a person with whom they would talk about spiritual matters:

1. Listen without _____.
 2. Allow them to draw their own _____.
 3. Confidence in sharing your own _____.
- B.L.E.S.S. is not a _____.**

THE BIG IDEA:

To **B.L.E.S.S.** your neighbor, Jesus invites you to begin with _____.

** I cannot change the world. You cannot change the world. Even prayer alone doesn't change the world. Only God can change the world! However, God uses prayer to change us, and then God uses us to change our world.*

Some random thoughts on prayer:

- * We can make prayer harder than it is, but we don't seem to want to work all that hard at it either.*
- * Prayer is not about finding the right formula. It's an expression of a right relationship with God.*
- * Prayer is the difference between the best we can do and the best God can do.*
- * We should pray ASAP, but we also need to pray ALAII!*
- * It's a tragedy when prayers go unanswered because they go unasked.*

Why begin with prayer? Three good reasons:

1. Jesus _____ it.

Luke 6:12 - One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.

2. The early church _____ it.

* While they _____, they prayed.

Acts 1:14a - They all joined together constantly in prayer...

* As the church was _____, they prayed.

Acts 2:42 - They devoted themselves...to prayer.

* When things got _____, they prayed.

Acts 4:24a - When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God.

3. Spiritually, we are _____ without it.

John 15:5c - ...apart from me you can do nothing.

Three simple steps:

1. _____ - **specific and focused prayers.**

* Pray for _____ people in your life, _____ minutes per day for _____ weeks.

2. _____ - **for the still, small voice.**

1 Kings 19:12 - After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

3. _____ - **to what you "hear" from God.**

Acts 16:10 - After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

* **Commence with prayer.** _____ **with prayer.**
Conclude with prayer.