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Asking-Seeking-Knocking- It's Praying

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"ASKING--SEEKING--KNOCKING--IT'S PRAYING"


I. In a lot of sermons I've said the church today wastes two very precious opportunities.
   A. Power of the Printed Page

B. Utility of prayer.
   1. It's the latter of which I now speak.

II. Jesus was asked to teach His disciples how to pray.
   A. They'd seen him pray.
      Luke 11:1 "And it came to pass, that, as he
      1. Power of his example propelled them.
      2. Power of his example constrained them --they waited til He "ceased".
   B. What may we learn about prayer?
      1. Bible cites positions
         (a) Publican stood
            Luke 18:13 "And the publican, standing
            after off, would not lift up so much as RV
         (b) Did any sit???
            Job 2:8 "And he sat down among the
(c) Hezekiah lying down / face
2 Kings 20:1-2 "In those days...turned
set face in crnr
beseech - remem. how I have walked
on high, perfect heart, done what is good
in thy sight - wept

(d) Elijah has face between his legs
(1) Earlier stood by altar
   I Kings 18:37 "Hear me O Lord, hear
   (2) On mt. another position.
   I Kings 18:42 "And he cast himself down.

(e) Many kneeled
(1) Paul unto the father your Lord
   Eph. 3:14 "For this cause I bow
(2) Solomon
   2 Chron. 6:13 "Upon it he stood, &
   kneeled.
   spread forth his hands

(3) Leper
   Mk. 1:40 "There came a leper to Him
   beseeching him & kneeling down to him &
   appealing. "If thou wilt... weeks"

(4) Stephen
   Acts 7:60 "He kneeled down, & cried
(5) Peter
Acts 9:40 "Peter put them all forth and kneeled down & prayed & heard the body said "Tabitha arise - opened eyes, saw Peter - set up"

(6) David
Ps. 95:6 "O come, let us worship & bow down - let us kneel before the Lord our Maker"

(7) Christ
Luke 22:41 "He was withdrawn from them. a stone cast, kneeled down & pr.

(8) Poem on prayer.

(9) We can't make all conform to what suits us.
   (a) Mother told daughter first time at church--going to pray--with their clothes on!

2. Bible gives addressee and endorsement.
   (a) Speak to Father
Matt. 6:6 "Pray to thy Father which
Matt. 6:9 "After this manner therefore
John 16:16
John 14:6

(b) Through Jesus
John 14:13 Whatsoever ye shall ask
(1) C.R. Nichol will you dismiss us?
"Lord dismiss us, Amen"
(a) Immediately was in aisle.
   Daughter said, "It doesn't take
   father long, does it?"

(2) Always known and I prefer to say
   "In Jesus name" unless like Stephen
   the prayer is addressed to Jesus.

(c) Assisted with the Holy Spirit
Rom. 8:26-27 "Like wise the Spirit
also

3. Bible demands the attitude be right.
(a) Not selfish
(1) Lord I ask nothing for myself
but please send dear mother a son-in-law.

(2) Lord send snow to keep the flowers warm (I fooled Him said little girl, really wanted to go sledding.)

(b) Right purpose in mind
(1) Adore
(2) Confess
(3) Thank
(4) Supplication
(c) In faith
  James 1:6

(d) According to His will
  Romans 8:27
  Matt. 26:42
  I John 5:14

West End 11/17/68
The proper way for a man to pray,
  Said Deacon Lemuel Keys,
The only proper attitude,
  Is down upon his knees.
No, I should say, the way to pray,
  said Reverend Dr. Wise,
Is standing straight with outstretched arms,
  And rapturous upturned eyes.
It seems to me his hands should be devoutly clasped in front
With both thumbs pointing toward the ground,
  said Reverend Dr. Blount.
Last year I fell in Hodkin's well, head first
  said Cyrus Brown
With both my heels sticking up;
  my head pointing down.
And I made a prayer right and then, 
best prayer I ever said 
The prayingest I ever prayed, 
was standing on my head.