

Sermon study 1 Timothy 2:1-7 "Unmerited Prayer"

Use this outline as a guide. You can talk about it a different way if you like but whatever you do make sure the depth of this study is depth of APPLICATION. Do not make it your goal to get sidetracked determining the meaning. The goal is to move forward from the message into actual real life and specific application. Be creative and follow up about application. Imagine a church where the people actually applied what they learned. Wow.

The problem this sermon addresses:

An elitist, myopic view of God's purposes in salvation was invading the Ephesian church.
Narrow grace meant narrow prayers.

Who do you normally pray for? Why?

Have you prayed for Barack Obama? Why or why not?

Read 1 Timothy 1. How did their view of grace skew the way they prayed?

How does our view of grace impact the way we pray today?

The Central Proposition of the text:

Pray for all types of people for it is good and it is necessary

Main Idea:

Unmerited grace demands unmerited prayers

I. Pray For All Types of People (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

A. Paul calls for prayers for all types of people, especially and specifically those in power. A key point of history is the fact that this command comes during a time of horrible corruption and evil leadership in Rome.

1. Read Titus 2:11.

a) Does Paul mean that all people are saved?

b) Notice in this section in Timothy that Paul writes with the intent to show that salvation is for the gentiles (1 Timothy 2:7).

c) The idea in this usage of "all" is that of all types.

2. Read Jeremiah 7:12-16 and 14:10-11.

a) What is significant about this request?

b) What does it imply about the normative habit of Jeremiah regarding prayer for the nation?

c) How does this exception prove the rule of praying for the nation and government? (its very specificity dictates that it is abnormal)

3. Read Jeremiah 29:7.

a) In light of his command to pray for evil Babylon, is there any reason to think God wants us to not pray for any group today?

(1) What must we believe about God to pray for corrupt governmental powers?

4. Read Romans 13:1-5 and 1 Peter 2:17.
 - a) Why should we pray for the good of our government?
 - b) And how do these verses relate to 1 Thessalonians 4:11 and 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12?
 - (1) Specifically how are we to live radically for God?
5. Read Matthew 5:43-47 and Luke 23:34 and Acts 7:59-60.
 - a) How did Christ and Stephan live radically for God?
 - b) How does this relate to a quiet life of obedience to government?
 - c) Did they fight their punishment? How might this glorify God?

II. It Is Good (1 Timothy 2:3-4)

- A. Paul describes why it is important to pray for all types of people and especially for those in power. It is good and it is pleasing to the God we are to love. He desires all types of people to be saved and so we must pray for all types of people. Unmerited grace demands unmerited prayer.
 1. We do not know who is elect. Grace is bigger than any sin. Knowing this how should our prayer life look?
 2. What are some of the ways we inadvertently slip merit into the way we give grace?
 3. If grace is scandalous than how should our prayers be?

III. It Is Necessary (1 Timothy 2:5-7)

- A. We must pray for all types of people because there is only one salvation for all people...even the gentiles
 1. Read 2 Corinthians 10:4.
 2. Read Colossians 4:2.
 - a) This verse comes after Paul laying out normative spirituality for the Colossians. The radical activity they were to be engaged in was steadfast prayer. This implies that we actually believe that prayer is the greatest weapon we possess.
 - (1) How is prayer a tangible expression of faith?
 3. Read 2 Timothy 2:24-26.
 - a) The world focuses on changed behavior, changed politics. The Word focuses on changed hearts. Discuss.

IV. Implication

- A. Read 1 Timothy 1:15.
 1. Who did Christ come to save?
 2. So then who is eligible for salvation?
 3. So then who should we pray for?

If we believe grace is narrow and based in any way on merit we will miss out on salvation and we will pray prayers for those who seem to merit them. But if we believe that grace is radically, scandalously and seriously free then we will pray radical, scandalous prayers for every type of person. **Unmerited grace DEMANDS unmerited prayers. God came into the world to save sinners. So pray for sinners...all of them.**

Application

How can you pray more broadly?
 How can you pray more boldly?

How can you pray bigger?
How can you pray for our government?

What are some of the implications from this message regarding our prayer lives in general?

If you do not have a disciplined prayer life, welcome to being a normal human being. It takes work and real disciplined faith to pray. I struggle every day with the flesh that tells me to do things rather than to sit and pray. My flesh is weak but I must remember that He wants me to rely on Him. Can you relate?

What can you do to start getting more disciplined personally about prayer?

What time of day will you set aside to pray?

Where?

How can you get involved in corporate prayer?

Starting to pray in a disciplined way is like starting an exercise routine. It will take some goal setting and some real motivation and discipline. You must set yourself up for success. Find someone who is more experienced at prayer. Ask them to help you. Read about prayer and ask many questions but in all this remember that the best way to learn to pray is to pray.

A great help for me is the handbook to prayer by Ken Boa. (<http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-prayer-Praying-Scripture-back/dp/1884330002>) the kindle version is best if you have a smart phone.

Let this message change you. Share what God is doing in your life on the Barabbas Road Facebook page.