

Lepers and Dolphins

Luke 17:11-19; Daniel 9:4-18; Acts. 1:24-25

Introduction: Today we continue our study on the topic of prayer. Lowell Bliss talked about a pattern of prayer that we see illustrated in the healing of the ten lepers in Luke 17 as well as in other prayers of the Old and New Testaments. This pattern of prayer, if followed, can lead us to a deepening experience of prayer - an experience in which our faith grows.

Opening Discussion: Have you been more encouraged or discouraged by your experience of prayer over the past couple of weeks?

In his sermon, Lowell talk about a pattern of prayer that starts with praise, moves to petition and finishes with thanksgiving. Read each of the passages to see how this pattern is illustrated.

Read Luke 17:11-19

1. How do you see the pattern illustrated?
2. Lowell said that praise and thanksgiving is a discipline. In what ways did giving thanks require discipline for the man who returned to Jesus?
3. Lowell said that thanksgiving is important to Jesus. How do you see that in the passage?
4. Why do you think thanksgiving is important to Jesus?

Read Daniel 9:4-18

5. How do you see the pattern illustrated?
6. What aspects of God's character does Daniel focus on before he makes his request?
7. In what verse does Daniel make his first request?

8. What does he ask the Lord to do?

Read Acts 1:24-25

9. How do you see the pattern illustrated?

10. What is the prayer concern that the disciples bring to God?

11. What aspect of God do they focus on before they get to their request?

General Application:

12. Lowell encouraged us to develop the discipline of rooting our requests in God's character. For instance, when we need wisdom, we might pray, "Lord, you know all things and are all-wise, please show me what to do." How might this approach affect your prayer life?

13. What is a need that you have right now? What aspect of God's character could you root that request in?

Note: If you missed the sermon and are wondering what "dolphins" had to do with the message, you can check out the sermon on our website (www.faithmanhattan.org) in resources section. For those who just need the big picture; Lowell's final illustration involved dolphins.