



Matthew 6:31-33

A. Every week for a year, an older brother met to mentor a younger man and always asked the same question each time: “Hey Andy, whatcha workin’ on BIG?” Truthfully, the younger man wasn’t working on anything big. In fact, “Big” to him was passing college algebra or getting a date for Friday night. And that was the older man’s point. It’s easy to be consumed by the minutia of life. At some point we must see past it. We must see the bigger picture.

B. Hence, the segue from— “Whatcha’ workin’ on big to...Whatcha’ prayin’ for big?”

I. The Challenge of Jesus—Matthew 6:31-33

You can spend your time chasing minor things (people who don’t believe in God do that, (vv.31-32), or you can get your priorities straight (v.33).

A. Think about how you prayed over the past year. Did you pray small (v.31), or did you pray BIG (v.33)?

1. It’s as if God asks—*Do you really want to spend another year coming to Me with the same requests of minutia?* This is the God who moves mountains. This is the “How Great Thou Art” God. And we only come to Him to ask for help with a nagging cold-???

2. What are you praying for that’s bigger than you? –That stretches your faith?

B. What would it be like to pray for something that absolutely 100% required God’s intervention? –Something that wrenches you out of your comfort zone. –Something that puts your faith to the test?

II. “Lord, Teach Us to Pray...” Luke 11:1ff

A. The Twelve began to notice that Jesus prayed differently. Hence, “Teach us to pray...”

1. What follows in verses 2-4 are the ABC’s of prayer.

2. What follows beyond that is an advanced study of prayer.

B. The story... vv.5-8.

1. The disciples had heard enough of Jesus’ stories to know two things: (1) someone in the story represents us and (2) someone in the story represents God. So...who is who?

2. In the story, the neighbor isn’t going away. And that’s the point (same with the story in Luke 18:1-7). The real focus of the story isn’t God—it’s *us*. It’s our timid approach to prayer.

3. We teach polite prayer, folded hands prayer, “Now I lay me down to sleep” prayer... When Jesus teaches on prayer, he launches into stories about begging, pleading, asking, interrupting, knocking and Knocking and KNOCKING and refusing to go away. What gives?

4. vv.9-10—It’s as if God says,

Finally, someone has asked Me to do something worthy of My name!

III. BIG and BOLD—the Hallmark of Biblical Prayer

The lesson for us...