
Outline

"If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!" Matthew 7:11

I. The Prayer or the Pray-er Is Off.

"He did not know what to say, they were so frightened." Mark 9:6

"Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" Luke 9:54

*"Remember when you're talkin' to the man upstairs
And just because He doesn't answer doesn't mean He don't care
'Cause some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers." ~ "Unanswered Prayer" by Garth Brooks*

II. It's Not the Right Time.

Genesis 12

Israel in Bondage to Egypt

Jesus' Arrival

"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship." Galatians 4:4-5

God want to give those who follow him the *"desires of their hearts."* Psalm 37:4

III. For Our Growth.

1. God wants us to grow in our character.

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." James 1:2-4

"Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." Romans 5:3-5

2. God wants us to grow in obedience.

*"Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save,
nor his ear too dull to hear.*

*But your iniquities have separated
you from your God;*

*your sins have hidden his face from you,
so that he will not hear."* Isaiah 59:1-2

"Lord, give me the strength and the will to live a life you can bless."

3) God wants us to grow in compassion.

Jonah

"And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?"

Jonah 4:11

Movie Recommendations: *Lorenzo's Oil* and *"Extraordinary Measures."*

"If you close your ears to the cry of the poor, you will cry out and not be heard." Proverbs 21:13.

IV. It's a Mystery.

"And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again.

There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground." Hebrews 11:32-38

Then Job replied to the Lord:

"I know that you can do all things;

no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?'

Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,

things too wonderful for me to know." Job 42:1-3