
“First Watch” Touch Points for *Evangel’s Prayer Vigil* team

For the week of June 23, 2013

Share with others on the Prayer Vigil throughout the week, during our Connections time on Sundays, or using our FaceBook group “First Watch Prayer Vigil.” www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=63044309096 .

This series—aimed to support our “Stepping Out in Faith—for the Sake of the Gospel” initiative—is based on *The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible* by Cheri Fuller (Tyndale House, 2003). We will focus on specific topics that relate to faith, witness and outreach. “The driving force behind this proposal is to increase our evangelistic witness and the impact on our neighborhood and community.” (From the overview document, available at www.evbapt.org/docs/steppingOut.pdf)

The Greatest Commandment

[A teacher of religious law asked Jesus,] “Of all the commandments, which is the most important? Jesus replied, “. . . ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.”

Mark 12:28-31

Prayer for the Week

Father, I am often too busy and distracted to remember the most important thing of all: your love. Help me to lay aside all else and order my day around my love for you. Teach me how to love you and how to love people as Christ loves them. As you fill me with your love, Father, lead me to those who need to know your love today.

Notable Quote

Love is not the work of the Holy Spirit, it is the Holy Spirit—working in us. God is love. He doesn’t merely have it or give it; he gives himself—to all men, to all sorts and conditions.

Joseph Fletcher

Reflection

As Jesus entered Jerusalem, the religious leaders were watching and waiting to confront him with their manipulative questioning and to attempt to trap him by hypocritically challenging his authority. Nonetheless, one religious leader, noticing that Jesus was giving them good answers, asked him which was the most important commandment. Jesus did not answer with a complicated code of laws, rituals, and customs. Instead, he reduced their binding law into two simple ideas—loving God and loving others—and focused on the one thing central to the Christian life: the principle of love. Oh, how often we miss living in the grace of God when we confine our walk of faith to the observance of rituals and laws. God sent his Son to save us from anything that could hinder our living the liberated life in Christ. This is salvation—the power of his life within us enabling us to love the Father and to love others with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Spend a few moments basking in Christ’s love for you, expressing your love for him, and asking him to fill you to overflowing with his love for people.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Is there someone in your life who needs to experience God’s love? Pray that God will use you this week to show his love.
- Continue to pray for our “Stepping Out in Faith” initiative. Pray over the next steps following the action at today’s congregational meeting.
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday’s worship service, the music, Scripture,, and Pastor Dave’s message “The Day Had Fully Come” from Acts 2* (Part 3 of the summer series “The Church: Beginning and Becoming”)—and ways the Lord can help you apply them this week.
- Pray for the ministry of Vacation Bible School, directed this year by Bridgette Ecklund. Pray as organizational efforts proceed. Pray for the children who will come and for their families as well; first that there will be kingdom impact, secondly that some would be attracted to Evangel.
- Pray that more individuals will visit Evangel and pray that more will decide to return after their initial visit. Be ready to extend an invitation yourself as we seek the Lord’s blessing to be seed sowing kingdom builders!

**A podcast of the sermon will be posted on the website by Monday, along with pdf versions of the PowerPoint notes and sermon outline*

Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday and normally posted on the website (www.evbapt.org) by Saturday.

Printed copies are available in the lobby on Sunday.