
Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of April 6, 2014

This series is aimed to support our "Stepping Out in Faith—for the Sake of the Gospel" initiative. It 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, prayer 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)

Giving All to Him

[Jesus] called his disciples to him and said, "I assure you, this poor widow has given more than all the others have given. For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, had given everything she has."

Mark 12:43-44

Prayer for the Week

Lord, I fully yield myself to you—all that I have, all that I am, and all that I hope to be. I give you everything about me . . . my strengths as well as my weaknesses. They are yours to do with as you please. I submit my heart, mind, and will to you, Lord Jesus. You alone are Lord of my life. I am thankful that I can trust you with anything that involves me in any way, whether big or small.

Notable Quote

Only the Holy Spirit himself can teach you what an entire yielding of the whole life to God can mean.

Andrew Murray (1828-1917)

Reflection

When Christ said that she "has given everything she has," he was specifying more than a monetary sacrifice. He was drawing our attention to the women's *life* sacrifice, her practice of living in complete surrender and loyal devotion to God. The story of the poor widow teaches more than just how to sacrifice through our monetary offerings. Her sacrificial giving is a demonstration of a life fully offered into the loving care of the Master's hands.

Why is it so difficult for us to yield all that we have and are to God? Is there fear that we'll be left without? It is only as we yield ourselves to him in complete faith and trust that we can experience true oneness with the Father, true freedom in Christ, and true, abundant, joy-filled living. As you prayerfully offer all that you have and are to the Father, his Holy Spirit will lovingly teach you and lead you to the joy that comes from wholehearted sacrifice.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- How do you compare to the poor widow in her total sacrifice for Christ? Are there areas of your life that are more like those who gave only a tiny portion out of their surplus? What is needed for unyielding sacrifice for Christ?
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday's worship service, the music, Scripture, and Chuck Vitel's message "Where Grace and Wrath Meet"*. (Rev. Vitel is filling in for Pastor Dave, who will be there but not preaching because of Jennie's injury to her knee from a fall on Wednesday). Pray for opportunities to apply these lessons throughout the week, within your own circle of influence and beyond. Pray for Jennie as she undergoes surgery on her shattered kneecap (likely on Tuesday), for complete and speedy recovery, and for Pastor Dave as he gives attention to Jennie's needs at this time.
- Continue to remember one family from your circle of influence for intercession. They could be a neighbor, coworker or relative. Pray for their struggles to be resolved, their health improved and their relationships strengthened. Ask the Lord to bring them to a fuller, closer relationship with Himself in faith and obedience.
- Continue to pray for opportunities to invite people to our services. Ask the Lord to open doors of conversation, connection or compassion with others to enable an offer of attendance.
- Continue to pray for our "Stepping Out in Faith" initiative: for the identification of a church planter, for unity and commitment as we seek to bring success to this evangelistic effort by growing ourselves. Praise the Lord for ways he is meeting our requests, often in surprising ways. In the meantime, renew your dedication to meet Bill France's challenge to pray that God will lead 25 adults and 50 children to Evangel—a seemingly impossible task! But not impossible for God! Pray persistently that God will bring a great harvest in 2014!

*A podcast of the sermon, will be posted on the website, normally by Monday.

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.