

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

For the week of February 26, 2017

Praying Specifically (Mark 10:51-52)

As Evangel faces change in 2017, we recognize how important prayer has been—and will continue to be—as we participate in the unfolding of God’s plan. Our Touch Points reflections come from “The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible” by Cheri Fuller (Tyndale, 2003).. Today’s reflection is especially appropriate as we have an Open Forum regarding our succession planning.

READ: “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked. “Teacher,” the blind man said, “I want to see!” And Jesus said to him, “Go your way. Your faith has healed you.” And instantly the blind man could see! *Mark 10:51-52*

REFLECT: When the blind beggar Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was nearby, he cried out for mercy and compassion. But as soon as Bartimaeus came to Jesus, Christ led him to be even more specific in his request by asking, “What do you want me to do for you [emphasis added]?” The blind man, in only a few words, prayed the most heartfelt prayer: “Teacher, I want to see!” In complete faith he asked for God’s healing because the Lord had led him to ask. Jesus prompted the man’s request by asking him to speak his heart’s desire.

Christ asks you the same question: *What do you, [your name], want me to do for you?* When we approach God in prayer, he wants us to come with as much wholehearted desire and longing as Bartimaeus had and to trust him for the answer. As his Spirit leads us in praying for specifically and honestly, we will begin to see and be awed by his grace, goodness, and glory. The faith that it takes to voice sincere, deeply felt, and earnest prayers places us in a position to experience great and mighty things from a great and mighty God.

PRAY: *LORD, help me to follow as your precious Spirit leads me to pray about the deep language of my heart . . . for your glory. Thank you for caring about every detail of my heart and my life. I long to please you, Lord, in every request I make before your throne of grace.*

QUOTE: God sees to it that when the whole man prays, in turn the whole man shall be blessed.
E. M. Bounds

ADDITIONAL PRAYER PROMPTS

- Use the Pause to Pray as a guide to focus on other concerns through the week. Copies can be found in the lobby and in the Archive section on the website (evbapt.org/archive).
- Reflect on this week’s worship service—the music, Scripture, Pastor Dave’s message* “Days of Elijah—The Way Back, Part 1” (1 Kings 19:4-5)—that all will help as you go through this week; for your own walk with Christ, and that you may be a blessing and witness to people you have contact with during the week.
- Continue to pray for opportunities to invite people to our services and to become engaged in spiritual discovery with the people of Evangel in other ways as well. Ask the Lord to open doors of conversation, connection and compassion with others to enable that engagement this week.
- Pray that God will bless our succession planning efforts. The Negotiating Team met on Friday with representatives of Vineyard Church of DuPage to discuss the Basic Terms of an agreement for sale of our property. The Team will meet tomorrow to plan the next steps, which will include an Open Forum, with a vote a week or two later. Acceptance of the Basic Terms will lead to negotiations on the final, detailed sale contract).

* a podcast and other materials from the service will be posted on the website by Monday.

Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday, posted on the website (evbapt.org), with printed copies available in the lobby. To be included in the weekly e-mail, use the Contact Us form on the website and request “add me to the Prayer Vigil list.”