

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of March 5, 2017

Giving All to Him (Mark 12:43-44)

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: [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, has given everything she has.” *Mark 12:43-44*

REFLECT: 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 woman’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.

PRAY: *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.*

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

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 2” (1 Kings 19:5-8)—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 Succession Planning Group meets on Wednesday to consider the “Basic Terms” of a sale to Vineyard Church of DuPage presented by our Negotiating Team. An Open Forum is planned for March 12 to bring an update, hear from Pastor Dave Frederick from Vineyard, and present the Basic Terms, with a vote on the Terms the following week. 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.”