

INTRODUCTION

- * For the past five weeks, we have set aside our study on "Focusing on the Messiah in the book of Matthew" in order to consider the importance of individual and corporate worship. We have considered the privilege, priority, place, pattern, and persistence.
- * Today, we will consider our final point, The Power of Prayer, while transitioning back into our study of Matthew
- * As a way of reminder, Jesus had just gone up a mountain - along with Peter, James, and John, in the region of Caesarea Philippi (potentially Mt. Hermon). While on the mountain, Jesus was transfigured in their presence and Moses and Elijah fellowshiped with Him.
- * In Luke 9, we are told that the event which we will be considering today happened on the next day.

INSTRUCTION**I. THE I _____ OF THE MESSIAH****A. The Situation****B. The Solution****II. THE I _____ OF THE MESSIAH****A. The Importance of F _____**

1. FAITH IN THE WORKING OF GOD IS THE KEY OF OUR S _____

- * cf. Col 2:11-12; John 1:12-13; Luke 7:36-50

2. FAITH IN THE WORKING OF GOD IS THE KEY OF OUR S _____

- * cf. Mark 9:22-24; Matthew 17:7-20

- * cf. Ephesians 3:20-21; Hebrews 11:6-9; Matthew 21:20-22; Luke 18:35-43

B. The Importance of F _____ (cf. Matthew 17: 19-21)

1. THE P _____

a. Fasting in O.T.

- * 2 Samuel 12:16 (v. 11-23; David for baby);
- * Ezra 10:6 (v.1-12; Ezra mourned for the guilt of those in captivity);
- * Nehemiah 1:4; 9:1-2 (the congregation all fasted last day of Tabernacles);
- * Esther 4:16 (v. 4:13-5:2);
- * Psalm 35:13 (v.12-14 praying & fasting for enemies); 69:10 (v. 9-18); 109:24 (v. 21-28; David);
- * Isaiah 58 (the true fast!); Dan 9:3-19 (Daniel confessing sins and seeking God's mercy);
- * Luke 2:37 (Anna @ temple)

b. Fasting in N.T.

- * Matthew 6:16-18
- * Acts 10:30 (Cornelius); 13:2-3 (elders/church of Antioch); 14:23 (Paul appt elders in churches);
- * 1 Cor 7:5 (married couples);
- * 2 Cor 6:5 & 11:27 (Paul's tribulations)

2. THE P _____

a. Fasting is A _____ (Matthew 6:16-18)

b. Fasting is A _____

INTROSPECTION

- * HOW WOULD JESUS DESCRIBE YOUR PRAYER LIFE?
- * WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GOD MIGHT WANT TO ACCOMPLISH THROUGH YOU?
- * ARE YOU SEEKING TO PREPARE YOURSELF SPIRITUALLY IN ORDER TO MEET THE CHALLENGE?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ... AND THEREFORE ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

It may be helpful to re-read the passage before the discussion.

- * Read James 5:17-18. What would be your first understanding of these TWO verses? Now read it in context - read James 5:13-20. What do you believe the verses are teaching considering their context?
- * Read Exodus 24:9-18; 32:1-4, 7-14, 29-33. Considering James 5:17-18, what are your thoughts regarding the ministry of Moses? How do you suppose the 40 days of prayer and fasting on the mountain factored into Moses' request and God's answer? How
- * How do these passages apply to the local church?