



INTRO FOR NEXT WEEK

A HOUSE OF PRAYER

PASSAGE OVERVIEW:

During the month of January, we will be looking once again at the Biblical basis for our mission statement as a church: Worship, Grow, Go. We will begin by examining how prayer undergirds each part of our mission.

Prayer is difficult. Let's be honest. Of all the core spiritual disciplines, prayer often lags behind the others in our personal practice. We love to study the Bible, as we should. We love to sing in worship, as we should. We may even get excited about sharing our faith with others, as we should. But when was the last time your soul rejoiced at the prospect of spending extended time in prayer?

God says His house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples. But we know that God is not impressed by anything that doesn't come from a sincere heart. So prayer, for prayer's sake, isn't enough. Our Father can't be manipulated by how long or how often we pray.

Prayer explodes from a heart of worship. Prayer reflects dependence on God for our growth and for fruit that is the product of growth. Prayer is high speed communication for the battlefield into which we go.

May we truly become a house of prayer.

READING FOR NEXT WEEK:

Isaiah 56; Matthew 21:12-17

Three responses to the King

I. Wise men's response. (1-2, 9-11)

1. Seek (1-2)
2. Joy (9-10)
3. Worship (11)
4. Offering gifts. (11)

II. Herod's response (3, 16-18)

1. Herod was Troubled
2. Herod flew into a violent rage (16-18)

III. The Priests and Scribe's response (4-6)

Couldn't be bothered!

Knowledge didn't impact their lives.

The only ones who ended up with joy were those who sought Him, worshiped Him, and offered gifts.

How does this apply to me?



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