

19th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, September 29, 2024
“The 12 Keys to Spiritual Maturity ~ Key #4: Radical Prayer”
Genesis 32:1-31

Prayer is one of the most powerful _____ we’ve been given by God—it’s our secret _____ against the enemy. Instead of being our _____, prayer should be our first line of defence; our top priority.

“Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.” (Ephesians 6:18)

If we really want to see God _____, if we really want to see God at work, if we really want to see situations turned around then we need to step up our prayers—we need to be develop the discipline of _____ prayer.

We need to be people that our _____ about prayer—and serious about _____ with God over the bigger issues of this world.

“The sons in your womb will become two nations. From the very beginning, the two nations will be rivals. One nation will be stronger than the other; and your older son will serve your younger son.” (Genesis 25:23)

3 ELEMENTS OF RADICAL PRAYER

#1. Radical prayer _____ the status quo.

Things weren’t looking too good for Jacob. In fact, the situation looked _____.

Radical prayer refuses to _____—it refuses to _____ the status quo.

Radical prayer refuses to believe that things have to be the way they _____.

“The might of prayer is so great it has overcome both heaven and earth.” (Martin Luther)

Luther goes on to speak of “_____ God through prayer,” in the sense that we are seeking to _____ God to His own promises. “

When the reality of what _____ us—when the reality of what we see doesn’t match the _____ or the promises of God—what we read in His word—we need to get on our knees and _____ God to His word.

“Then Jacob prayed, ‘O God of my father Abraham, God of my father Isaac, O

Lord, who said to me, ‘Go back to your country and your relatives, and I will make you prosper.’ I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant. I had only my staff when I crossed this Jordan, but now I have become two groups. Save me, I pray, from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid he will come and attack me, and also the mothers with their children. But you have said, ‘I will surely make you prosper and will make your descendants like the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted.’” (Genesis 32:9-12)

Jacob was holding onto God’s _____—the promise that He made to him and to his grandfather, Abraham, and his father, Isaac.

“‘The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour...’ Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” (Luke 4: 18-19)

Radical prayer calls us to _____ in spiritual defiance of the world as it is now. We pray out against a world of _____, oppression and violence.

“justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream.” (Amos 5:24)

Like Abraham in Genesis 18 we bargain with God over the fate of the _____. Like Moses in Exodus 32 we argue with God over the fate of the _____. Like Esther we plead with God over the fate of the _____. Through radical prayer we stand against the status quo and we hold God to His Word and promises.

Radical prayer stands up in the face of the status quo and says things can be _____—things will be different.

“Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God all things are possible!” (Matthew 19:26)

**Do you believe this? Do you believe that things can be different?
How radical are your prayers?**

#2. Radical prayer _____ the status quo.

That night, Jacob _____ with God. He took God to task and held Him to His _____.

While Jacob wrestled with God in _____ something remarkable happened While Jacob was praying here, a _____ was happening in his brother, Esau, over there.

“Then Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming with his 400 men. So he divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and his two servant wives. He put the servant wives and their children at the front, Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph last. Then Jacob went on ahead. As he approached his brother, he bowed to the ground seven times before him. Then Esau ran to meet him and embraced him, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him. And they both wept...” (Genesis 33 1-4)

While Jacob was praying, a _____ was happening in Esau. God was working on his _____, and he went from being angry and vengeful to loving and _____.

Radical prayer doesn't just _____ the status quo, it _____ it.

“If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.” (Luke 17:6)

**Do you believe this? Does your life bear witness to this truth?
How radical are your prayers?**

#3. Radical prayer _____.

“When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man.” (Genesis 32:25)

God is _____—all powerful—ad Jacob was only a man. Why couldn't God overpower him?

God has to be _____ to His promises.

“So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, ‘For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.’ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.” (Genesis 32:31)

That is what _____ Jesus is all about. It means being willing to go _____ for Jesus—no holds barred and no turning back. It means being willing to pay the price and count the _____—to endure _____, shame, ridicule, embarrassment, rejection, persecution, and yes, even _____.

What might be the cost for some of our radical prayers?

If you are praying for God to start moving among us by the power of the Holy Spirit, don't be _____ if and when He does. And I guarantee He won't turn up the way you want Him too. Instead, He will _____ your comfort, _____, and belief structures.

So be careful what you _____ for—you may just get it—and it usually comes with a personal _____.

**Do you believe this? Are you willing to pay the price and count the cost?
How radical are your prayers.**

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Radical prayer goes straight to the _____ of the issue. It refuses to let us stay on the _____ of life's great issues, never getting too involved in the things that really matter.

Radical prayers refuses to _____ or _____, and dares to believe that things can be _____, that things can _____, that nothing is impossible for God! Its aim is the total _____ of persons, institutions and societies.

And so, in that sense, radical prayer is _____—it's driven by faith and a _____ of the way things _____ or should be—because radical prayer _____ God in and enables Him to change the world through us.

**Is radical prayer a key on your spiritual key chain?
How radical are your prayers?**

Notes: