



Hindrances To Prayer (II)

Retreating armies cut into / broke up
road behind them – *hindered*

- 1 Pt.3:7 – . . . That your prayers may not be 'hindered' –how to avoid it?
 - Understand nature of marital relation
 - Understand duties

Wife's sighs come between husband's
prayer and God's hearing

What hinders our prayers?

- Infidelity
- Ignorance
- Impurity

Also . . .

I. Pride

Lk.12:16-21

Why pray? He has all he needs

Lk.18:9-11, 'spiritually rich' prays, but has all he 'needs'

Ja.1:17, we are indebted to God

I. Pride

II. Distraction, Wandering Mind

Luke 11:5-8, midnight visitor teaches us how to pray

- ❑ He asked in spite of obstacles –
 - Midnight (inconvenient time)
 - In bed (unsuitable time)
 - Probably asleep (unwelcome time)
 - Children may wake up (disaster!)
- ❑ God has no midnight, Ps.121:3

No need too great,
Ja.1:5

No time too late,
Ja.1:17

Luke 11:5-8, midnight visitor teaches us how to pray

- ❑ Does not encourage idle repetition (Mt.6:8) but persistence
- ❑ Lk.22:39-44, disciples
- ❑ 1 Co.14:16

We pay attention to things we love.

Child – ¹homework; ²play

Luke 11:5-8, midnight visitor teaches us how to pray

- ❑ Persistence (8): even after a discouraging answer (7).

Shamelessness; audacity.
God gives eagerly (9-13).

Gen.32:22-32, **wrestling with God**

Jacob would not let Him go . . .

- 'Grabber' from birth
- 32:3-6, Esau's last words...
- 32:24-25, encounter at Jabbok
- 32:26, "Bless me"
- 32:27-31, name change

Hosea 12:3-4 –
Angel

Gen.32:30-31 –
saw God

Gen.32:22-32, **wrestling with God**

Jacob would not let Him go . . .

- Instead of trickery, depends on God
- Esau is not the problem: **God is**
 - Mt.5:23-24; Ro.8:31
 - Self-centered life will fail us
- NT parallel: Mt.15:21-28

She would not leave Him alone

Lk.11:5-8, **midnight visitor**
Lk.11:9-13, **keep on . . .**

- So I say to you . . .
 - Keep on **asking** – will be given
 - Keep on **seeking** – will find
 - Keep on **knocking** – will be opened

Lk.11:5-8, **midnight visitor**

Lk.11:9-13, **keep on . . .**

Lk.18:1-8, **always pray . . .**

- 1: do not lose heart

Lose enthusiasm, be discouraged, give up

- Because prayer has to be long?

- Mt.6:9-13, seventy-one words

- Jn.17, six hundred

Neh.2:4-5

- Mt.14, all night

- Because we get no answer; don't believe its power (Ja.5:16)?

Lk.11:5-8, **midnight visitor**

Lk.11:9-13, **keep on . . .**

Lk.18:1-8, **always pray . . .**

- 2-3: a study in contrasts
 - Judge: ignored God and man
 - Widow: helpless, oppressed
 - She kept coming (3)
- 4-5: atheist creed / 'she keeps bothering me; will finally beat me down' [1 Co.9:27]

Lk.11:5-8, **midnight visitor**

Lk.11:9-13, **keep on . . .**

Lk.18:1-8, **always pray . . .**

- 6-8, atheist / secularist teaches us how to pray
 - Wicked man finally yields; what of loving Father?
 - Conditions: persist; pray in faith

Lk.11:5-8, **midnight visitor**

Lk.11:9-13, **keep on . . .**

Lk.18:1-8, **always pray . . .**

- Why does God sometimes delay?
 - 1.** Job 1-2 – some reasons we cannot understand now
 - 2.** He may have greater blessings in store, Job 42; Jn.11:5-6...
 - 3.** To teach us patience
 - 4.** He is patient with sinners (2 Pt.3:9)

I. Pride

II. Distraction, Wandering Mind

III. Unforgiveness

Our relation to other people affects our
relation to God – Mt.6:12, 14-15

- Mt.18:21, Peter's plan left room for unforgiveness

**Unforgiveness is like taking poison
but expecting someone else to die**

I. Pride

II. Distraction, Wandering Mind

III. Unforgiveness

IV. Selfishness

Self-Ish-Ness

- James 4:3, lusts (hedonism)
 - Religious man
 - Governed by selfishness

Do I pray for
material things
more than
spiritual?

Do I pray for
others or mostly
for myself?
(Mt.9:38)