

April 17, 2011

Rethink: Prayer, Jon Ritner

Luke 22:39-46

1. Share some classic “before and after” commercials/situations/lives that come to mind. **Open answer. P90X pictures, nutrisystems, slimfast, etc.**
2. Read the 3 passages of Jesus praying in the garden...Luke 22:39-46, Mark 14:32-42, Matt.26:36-46. What do you observe about Jesus and the disciples at the beginning and at the end of each passage? **Jesus starts out anxious, stressed, fearful and ends up filled with peace, power and perspective. The disciples are following, confused and sleepy and end up scattered, fearful, angry, lost, defeated.**
3. What’s the difference between a “fix it” prayer and a “fill me” prayer? Give an example of both from scripture. **A “fix it” prayer is an appeal to God to fix whatever is wrong in the world, a relationship, a financial situation, etc. so we can get out of whatever hard situation we might find ourselves in and can sometimes be self-centered. A “fill me” prayer is asking the Lord to fill us with the Holy Spirit so we can do His will. Fix it prayers are not bad...they just need to be proceeded with a fill me prayer. A fix me prayer is that of the Pharisee in Luke 18:11. An example of both is found in Jesus’ prayer in the garden in Luke 22:42.**
4. What does it mean to pray for God to align our will with His? What would that look like for you today? **Basically, you are acknowledging that God knows best and we are asking God to help us to know His will and bring our desire into alignment with His will. Open answer.**
5. Muslims pray 6 times a day...seems like a lot until you realize we are called to pray continually. How do we do that? **Be filled with the Holy Spirit. Turn our inner monologue into a dialogue with God. Open answer.**
6. What kinds of prayer are there besides asking for things? **Thanksgiving, confession, praise, listening. Open answer.**
7. What from rethinking prayer are you going to apply or takeaway? **Open answer.**