

Unfamiliar Prayer

Series: Understanding Prayer

Luke 8:4-18 (1006)

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I. Common cultural misconceptions of prayer

a. Self-sufficient naturalists...

b. Frantic pragmatists...

c. Fuzzyheaded spiritualists...

d. Duty-bound stoics...

e. Christian lobbyists...

f. The common link connecting each of these misconceptions...

II. Two base-line anchors of biblical prayer

a. The anchor of biblical understanding

Luke 8:4-10 ⁴While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: ⁵*"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. ⁶Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown."* When he said this, he called out, *"He who has ears to hear, let him hear."* ⁹His disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰He said, *"The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, "though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand."*

John 14:25-26 ²⁵*"All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*

Luke 8:16-18a ¹⁶*"No one lights a lamp and hides it in a jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, he puts it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light. ¹⁷For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open. ¹⁸Therefore consider carefully how you listen.*

b. The anchor of faithful obedience

Luke 8:18b *Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken from him."*

Ezekiel 12:1-2 ¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²*"Son of man, you are living among a rebellious people. They have eyes to see but do not see and ears to hear but do not hear, for they are a rebellious people.*

Isaiah 44:18, 20 ¹⁸*They know nothing, they understand nothing; their eyes are plastered over so they cannot see, and their minds closed so they cannot understand. ...a deluded heart misleads him*