



## “Prayer: The Answer for the Desperate Parent”

Mark 1:35-39

Sunday | February 26th, 2017 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

### CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

**Mark 1:35-39** *“And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him, ‘Everyone is looking for you.’ And he said to them, ‘Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.’ And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.”*

*(See also Is. 55:8-9, Jn. 5:19-20, 8:28-29, Matt. 6:9-13, Eph. 1:15-19, 3:14-21, Php. 1:8-11, Col. 1:9-14)*

### CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

**[Paul E. Miller]** *“It took me seventeen years to realize I couldn’t parent on my own. It was not a great spiritual insight, just a realistic observation. If I didn’t pray deliberately and reflectively for members of my family by name every morning, they’d kill one another. I was incapable of getting inside their hearts. I was desperate. But even more, I couldn’t change my self-confident heart. My prayer journal reflects both my inability to change my kids and my inability to change my self-confidence. That’s why I need grace even to pray.”<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>Paul E. Miller, *A Praying Life* (Colorado Springs, CO: 2009), p. 59.

### DISCUSS

1. If you are comfortable doing so (*and maybe even if you’re not*) share some of the burdens you have for each of your children at present.<sup>2</sup>

2. Read Mark 1:35-39 and discuss (*c.f. Jn. 5:19-20, 8:28-29*). What do we learn about prayer from Jesus’ life and ministry? How might this relate to parenting?

3. Read Paul’s prayers for the various churches (*Eph. 1:15-19, 3:14-21, Php. 1:8-11, Col. 1:9-14*). Do Paul’s prayers for the various churches help you to think differently about your prayers for your children? In what ways?

4. What immediate applications can be made in light of this text?

5. Paul David Tripp says, “... Prayer requires three things: a recognition of God’s position, and admission of your need, and a surrender to God’s plan.”<sup>3</sup> Discuss each and then, as a group, pray through his list for your children (*or those you are burdened for*<sup>4</sup>).

Notes:

<sup>2</sup>This refers to the activity on Sunday where Pastor Patrick had everyone write down their current burdens for their kids.

<sup>3</sup>Paul David Tripp, *Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2016), p. 208.<sup>2</sup>This refers to the activity on Sunday where Pastor Patrick had everyone write down their current burdens for their kids.

<sup>4</sup>Leader: Be careful to not let this time of prayer turn into a gossip session. If the “burdens” are sensitive, then encourage people to withhold, but still pray.