

“Beyond Sunday Morning: Patience and Prayer”

James 5:7-11, 13-18 (NLT)

August 16, 2015

Rev. Dave Baldridge

Palm Harbor United Methodist Church, Palm Harbor, Florida

Lord help me learn patience.....(look at watch...pause) any time now Lord.

Bless me with patience Lord, not the opportunities to be patient...I've had plenty of those and they don't seem to be working. I need the actual patience.

Anybody here relate? Maybe you can relate to the following story.

A teacher was helping one of her kindergarten students put his boots on. He asked for help and she could see why. With her pulling and him pushing, the boots still didn't want to go on. By the time she got the second boot on, she had worked up a sweat.

She almost whimpered when the little boy said, "Teacher, they're on the wrong feet." She looked and sure enough, they were. It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool as they worked together to get the boots back on -- this time on the right feet.

He then announced, "These aren't my boots." She bit her tongue rather than get right in his face and scream, "Why didn't you say so?" like she wanted to. Once again she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off.

He then said, "They're my brother's boots. My Mom made me wear them." She didn't know if she should laugh or cry. She mustered up the grace to wrestle the boots on his feet again.

She said, "Now, where are your gloves?" He said, "I stuffed them in the toes of my boots ..."

Ever have one of those days?

Oh my! Patience is something we need every day especially Beyond Sunday Morning. Why we have difficulty being patient when the car in front of us hesitates when the light turns green...why they aren't going!!!! We impatient in a fast food drive thru. Think about that one for a moment. We seem that we just can't get things fast enough.

James addresses patience and even says in verse 10 to have patience in suffering. What patience in suffering? Not easy, tough, it stinks. I am amazed at some I know of this congregation that endure suffering and pain every day. In verse 11 James says... "We give honor to those who endure suffering."

I want to give honor to those that are sitting around us and that we may have no clue as to the suffering they are going through. Physical suffering, suffering from loneliness, suffering from family problems.

In verse 11 Job is mentioned. Many are familiar with the story of Job in the Old Testament as recorded in the Book of Job. Here in James is the only place in the New Testament that Job is mentioned by name. And even if you are not familiar with the whole story of Job you most likely have heard the phrase....the _____ of Job. The what? The “Patience” of Job. Here James doesn’t talk of his patience but his endurance. Other translations say perseverance, steadfastness.

I don’t understand suffering. I don’t have the answers to why people suffer. James says of Job that the Lord was kind to him and at the end, for the Lord is full of tenderness and mercy. I am counting on that tenderness and mercy at the end part.

Patience Beyond Sunday Morning. Help us Lord! And now to the second word today and second part of our Scripture reading. Prayer. We need to be people of prayer....not just on Sunday morning but every day. We do what we call ‘corporate prayer’ on Sunday morning. We gather our hearts and together we pray. We also need to be having private prayer...each one of us offering up our prayers Beyond Sunday Morning on a daily basis.

Verse 13 says, “Are any of you suffering hardships? (don’t need to raise your hands) The answer “You should pray.” James says “Are you happy? You should sing praises.” “To God be the Glory great things He has done. Praise the Lord Praise the Lord let the earth hear His voice!” “Are any sick?” Come and have the spiritually mature pray over you in the name of the Lord. For those who have and are committing sins pray and you will be forgiven.

There is power in prayer. James mentions Elijah. It is a story from 1 Kings 17 and 18. No rain for 3 and a half years and then he prayed and rain fell. And when that rain fell the earth began to yield its crops. Beloved we need to pray for the Lord of the Harvest to have those crops grow. Are you with me? xxx

I want to highlight the second part of **Verse 16: The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.**

Let’s look at several words in this powerful verse. The EARNEST prayer. The prayer with intense conviction. The prayer that is desperate. The prayer that comes from the depths of our very heart and soul. That “Oh, Lord, hear my prayer,” prayer.

The prayer of a RIGHTEOUS person. Simply put this means those that have been made right with God. You are made right with God as you confess your sins, follow Him and lean not on your own understanding, but trust Him.

Next interesting word is the word POWER. Oh to have prayer with power. But that is not what scripture says....it says what type of power? GREAT. Woo-hoo....an earnest prayer from a believer with great power.

And then look what happens. It produces wonderful results. Let me say that again. It produces results....wonderful results.

Can we embrace that verse today? Can we claim that verse today? Can we live out that verse today and in the days ahead?

(movie War Room clip https://youtu.be/wXgC_HLLcCQ)

Lord you are good, you are mighty, you are merciful. Lord we need an army of believers here at PHUMC. We need warriors here at PHUMC who will fight on their knees. We need people who will make the commitment to worship you with whole hearts. O Lord I believe you are calling PHUMC to battle. To proclaim you as king of kings and Lord of Lords. Raise ‘em up Lord! Raise ‘em up!

This morning I am calling you to the War Room. Oh not the movie...although you’ll see information about that in the bulletin and in the Multi-Purpose Room. Amazing how this sermon series planned for months and just so happens that this movie on Prayer is coming out in a couple of weeks. Oh, calling for an army of believers and warriors who will be daily in prayer for Kingdom Issues.

I’m going to ask for a specific commitment to pray. Now I know that this call is not for everyone. This is not an okay, the guy next to me raised his hand, I’ll raise my hand. This is for earnest prayers of the righteous. We are calling this 1551prays.

1551 is our street address. Palm Harbor United Methodist Church at 1551 Belcher Road. But let’s look at it another way. **(image of military clock)**

1551 in Military time/medical time is 3:51. I am going to call you to join a prayer team that prays ever day at 1551. That is at 3:51 every day. In fact what I’ve done, and I’m going to encourage you to do....is get out your smart phone and set a reminder for every day at 1551 (3:51) I’ve been doing that the last few days. My reminder alarm goes off and I look at the screen and it simply says...Pray. I have my reminder tone set for 1551 (3:51) every day.

Before I tell you how to make a commitment to be a part of this 1551prays prayer team I need to share with you what our prayer focus will be. This is not going to be a Prayer type chain. Everybody that will be a part of this team will be praying the same time for the same thing.

Now even before I tell you what we are going to be praying for each day you may want to know how long we are going to be involved in 1551prays. I wish someone would ask me “How long?” Well 1551 has a 15 at the beginning and ends with 51 which is 15 transposed. So....the call for prayer warriors is 15 weeks beginning at 1551 today. That means we will conclude our season of prayer on November 22nd. (Sunday before Thanksgiving) Yes including today 99 days of intentional prayer. Now I get excited about a group of committed earnest pray-ers praying at the same time every day for the same specific thing.

We will have a different prayer emphasis each day of the week. However every Monday from now until 1551prays concludes you will always pray for that same area.

So let me give you the specifics of what I'm asking you to pray for each day. On your sermon note section you will want to write these down if you consider being on the 1551prays prayer team.

Now I like alliteration. It helps me remember things better. So each day what you pray for is the same letter of the day. Let's take a look.

1551prays

Sunday---Schools

Parents, teachers, students

Monday---Missions (outreach)

Are we at PHUMC reaching who God wants us to reach? Are we reaching out and inviting people to Christ and His church?

Tuesday---Tomorrow's Church

PHUMC's Strategic Plan for Kingdom Growth. 1. Equipping People 2. Using our facilities for ministry, 3. Developing families to honor God.

Wednesday---Work Team

PHUMC's clergy, the Staff of the church, Westlake Christian School, The Robin's Nest, and Stars and Comets

Thursday---Time, Talent, Treasure

Time...people stepping up to give their time to serve

Talent...people stepping up to share their talent

Treasure....people stepping up to give their God given resources to support ministries for the remainder of this year and including our 2016 budget

Friday---Festival of Christmas

Advent and Christmas ministries! How are you/we going to celebrate Jesus and bless others?

Saturday---Services for Sunday

For people to come to a saving relationship with Jesus, for people to grow deeper in their faith, for us always to glorify God

Let's see if we can remember them----Sunday---Schools, Monday---Mission (outreach), Tuesday---Tomorrow's Church, Wednesday---Work Team, Thursday---Time, Talent, Treasure, Friday---Festival of Christmas, Saturday---Services for Sunday. Here's how you can make that commitment. I've found it is helpful if you are held accountable to commitments. So...there are 2 ways you can make your commitment to be a part of 1551prays.

First way is by your mobile device (**image**)

In fact you can do this if you want right now. Get your smart phone out. Now before we begin I've been told and I know that often texting is problematic here in the sanctuary. So if you try this and it doesn't go through....try it again after you leave the church grounds.

To get started send a message to 22828. So that is who you are sending it to. By the way this is sent to us this isn't going to anyone that would have access to your numbers. Don't even need to include your name. So you just text 1551prays to 22828.

You will get a response that says, "Hello! Please reply with your email address in order to join the PHUMC prayer team."

You then text your email address. Then you will get a response back that says. I just notice it says "Thank up! Rather than thank you. But you know....little sermon here... in that we do need to Thank UP! Are you with me? Xxxx The message back to you then says "You are now part of the PHUMC prayer team. Please watch your email for prayer team messages."

On occasion I will send out to your email an update or word of encouragement.

For those that want to be part of 1551prays but do not have a Smartphone or an email....all you need to do is immediately after the service go to the information desk and there will be someone there to take your name and your phone #. And again we will call you on occasion with an update and encouragement.

As you are thinking about your commitment let's put that important verse back up on the screen:

Verse 16: The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results

Lord we need an army of believers. We need to raise up warriors who will fight on their knees...to worship the Lord with their whole hearts so that we may proclaim you as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

We can't preach a sermon on prayer without actually praying. Some may stay in the pew. Others may want to come down forward and pray. Some may want to gather over here and be anointed with oil. So when we sing this last song. It will be a time of song and prayer.

"Lord I need you, O I need you. Every hour I need you. My one defense my righteousness, O God. How I need you."