

Following at a Distance

Part 1 – An Invitation to Prayer

Matthew 26.36-44, 58

Radio Controlled Car – too much distance means losing power, guidance, etc.
Driving in Traffic – some distance, but too much and you'll never get there
NASCAR – actually drawing energy from the one you're following

Why this series?

1. Mindset that spreads that this is acceptable "I'll settle for this..."
2. There is no security apart from Jesus, only with Him
3. Transformation happens in relationship (2 Pet. 1.3)
4. Calling on church in days ahead

Q: How distant are you from Jesus right now?

Invitation to Prayer (not to feel guilty about prayer)

Prayers for Miracles (v.39)

- He's pleading for God to work (facing down, not face lifted toward heaven)
- You'll know this is your prayer when you groan about it
- Jesus was basically asking for a rerouting of history
- Sometimes this is exactly what He does EMILY SMITH
- Q: What's the biggest prayer you're praying right now? IORG STORY

Prayers of Surrender (v.39)

Diagnostic work first – why don't we pray like this?

1. We don't want to surrender control
2. We don't want to surrender "freedom"
3. We don't want to surrender comfort
 - "I'm not here for blessings, Jesus you don't owe me anything"
4. We don't want to submit to perseverance (this is mostly about hope)
 - Can't see a way forward – We've been hurt – Our understanding of God has been clouded or distorted by some sin perpetrated against us – We believe that there is no way God can get me through (doubt provision / power)
 - Jesus is not out of touch with this – He knows there's a challenge due to our frailty, weakness, weariness
 - Forget that perseverance is the norm (Heb. 11.32-12.2)
5. We don't want to submit to pruning (this is mostly about help)
 - We don't want the kind of help that God is willing to provide
 - "Whatever you want from me, I gladly give – whatever you want for me, I gladly receive"

Q: What is keeping you from praying the prayer of surrender?