

Introduction:

1. I recently went to Starbucks. I'm a creature of habit when ordering: Tall Café Americano, two Splenda, and a little cream. I also got a few petite scones. There was a man waiting for his order. I said, "Hello." He asked me what I was up to for the day. I told him I was preparing for my sermon. This led to a great short conversation. He asked me another question. "What's the number one question you ask yourself each morning?" I paused. I thought.
2. Do you have a single question you ask yourself each morning? I love the question.
  - a. Am I going to be late for work?
  - b. What's new on Facebook?
  - c. When will my husband stop snoring?
  - d. Do I have to wake up?
  - e. Will the sell go through today at work?
  - f. How can I make the world a better place?
3. As I think more about our Theme, I'm realizing it can help us answer this question. It can help us if we don't begin our day with a question. Questions bring clarity. They help us to see where we may be lacking. Consider how our theme can help us?
  - a. How can I honor my King today?
  - b. In what areas of my life do I need to trust my King more?
  - c. How can I serve my King and His kingdom today?
  - d. How and when will I worship today?
4. What if Jesus was asked this question. How might He answer? Let's consider His life for an answer.

The Lesson:

**I. How did Jesus begin His days?**

- A. We can go to passages like Mark 1:32-35. Jesus woke up early to pray.
  1. He was intentional about His early morning hours.
  2. This mattered to Him. He worshiped the Father. Prayer is a form of worship.
- B. What's the most important question we ask ourselves each morning? Jesus can help us.
  1. When will I set aside times to pray?
  2. What do I need to pray about today?
  3. Who can I pray for today?
  4. Jesus didn't struggle to make time to pray. The apostles and early Christians didn't necessarily struggle to make time to pray, Acts 2:42; Acts 12:1-2; Acts 16:25.

## II. Jesus struggled in prayer!

- A. I don't mean He struggled to make time to pray. I mean, He struggled in prayer.
  - 1. Reading the scriptures, we see an intensity to His prayers.
    - a. The intensity at times could be in the duration of them, Luke 6:12-13.
    - b. The intensity at times could be seen with how He conveyed things. Consider Luke 22:31-32. There was a sense of urgency. Jesus was aware of Satan and his attacks he would make upon the apostles.
    - c. The intensity at times was in how He prayed, Luke 22:39-46.
  - 2. This is what I mean when I say Jesus struggled in prayer. He didn't have a "let me get this over with fast" mindset. Not to say that short prayers are wrong.
- B. In fact, this idea of struggling in prayer is something we see from others.
  - 1. Acts 12:1-2. The early saints struggled in prayer for Peter. Everything else was laid aside.
  - 2. Colossians 4:12: Epaphras had it as well. Why? There was deep care and concern.
  - 3. To struggle is (to enter a contest, to contend, to labor,)
- C. Do we?
  - 1. Jesus helps us to see where the struggle, the intensity, is to be for us: Kingdom first praying.
  - 2. As we look at the life of Jesus, we can see where His mind was.
    - a. It was doing what was pleasing to the Father, Luke 22:39-46.
    - b. It was preparing the apostles for the Kingdom, Luke 6:12-13; Luke 22:31-32.
  - 3. In fact, the very first time Jesus teaches on prayer, it's about God and the Kingdom.
  - 4. This is what needs to be in your head and in your heart.

### Conclusion:

- 1. Do our days look like life of Jesus? Filled with worship. Filled with prayer.
- 2. What was the most important question you asked yourself this morning? A good place to begin is with worshipping our Father and our King!