

Praying with Mary

Mary faces the death penalty for infidelity if she is discovered to be pregnant. How do you think she took the news from the angel that she is carrying a child?

Mary’s response: “I am the Lord’s servant. May your word be fulfilled.”

“Prayer in the middle voice is a participation in the action of God.” What did Mary have to change in her life in order to participate in God’s plan and actions?

Psalm 112:6-8 - ...” a righteous man will be remembered forever. He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. His heart is secure, he will have no fear;”

Mary had to completely change her plans for her life in order to flow into the river of God’s plans. Would you be able to change your life to work hand-in-hand with God? What are some things that would be challenging for you to change?

Praying with Jesus

Jesus faces death. “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” Jesus prays the prayer of his mother. Even the Son of God prays a heartfelt prayer to his Father to relieve this burden from him but accepts His participation in God’s plan.

How can you relate to this in your life?

The Collateral Damage of Intimacy

Mother Teresa rejected the thought of her being a social worker. She said she and her fellow servants were “contemplatives in the heart of the world.” She was saying that all she had done, all her accomplishments were merely accidents that happened due to prayer.

Can you see yourself being a person of prayer? ...of being part of God’s work?

Jesus said in Luke 11 – “You Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness.”

Public mercy – “But now as for what is inside you – be generous to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.”

“It’s impossible to know God through private prayer without equally participating with God in public mercy.” To pray is to be led into public service. Proximity to pain lends credibility and power to our prayers. Can you see yourself being a light to those that are in pain?

When we become intimate with Jesus through prayer, we find ourselves doing his work, possibly not even realizing it. Fruitfulness is the collateral gain of that intimacy.

What can you do to feed that intimacy with the Son of God and thus feed the fruitfulness of your efforts to be part of God’s plan and actions?