

Scripture Reading: Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

Prayer is the world's greatest wireless connection. —Anon.

In the Bible reading above, Luke gives us his version of the Transfiguration. Did you ever notice that the Bible says that *they went to the mountain to pray*? Luke is the only gospel writer to notice this or at least mention it when describing the trip up the mountain in southern Galilee. Luke says nothing about why they were hiking up to the top of Mount Tabor, or that Jesus was expecting to meet with Moses and Elijah, the two superstars of Judaism.

So they arrived on top. It was probably a bit windy and chilly. I know; I've stood on top and the view is magnificent and the weather is windy and chilly! Yet, Jesus wanted to pray.

Here's the odd part: As amazing as all of this was, the disciples to a man promptly fell asleep!

Prayer is one of the dominant themes in Luke's gospel. In verse 18 of this same chapter, Luke writes, "Once when Jesus was praying alone ..." This is when Peter makes his declaration about the divinity of Christ. At the Baptism, Jesus was praying: "When Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened ..." Of course, he was praying in the wilderness for 40 days when he was tempted by the devil. He would pray in the garden of Gethsemane before his arrest, trial and crucifixion. There in the garden, and now here on the Mount of Transfiguration, the disciples (Peter, James and John) fell asleep! This seems to happen frequently.

In this case, unlike the events in the Garden of Gethsemane, they were with Jesus in the *middle of the day*! Granted, they may have been weary if they had hiked up Mount Tabor in a circular manner until reaching the top. Perhaps they were not hydrated.

In any case, the disciples, like us perhaps, found prayer to be tiring, difficult and arduous.

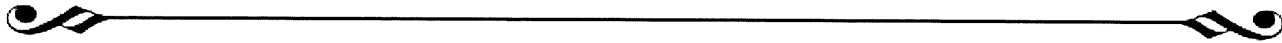
Yet, they knew that prayer was important to Jesus. And if Jesus felt it necessary to pray, they could hardly discount its importance. Years later, the apostle Paul would urge Christians to "pray without ceasing."

Have we spent time in prayer today?

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Sometimes I forget to pray, O God, and when I forget to pray, I seem to remember things that irritate me. And then, when I am stressed and anxious, I remember why I need to pray. Help me to eliminate these steps and never again forget to be "constant in prayer." Amen.

*Blessings,
Lisa & Pastor Ben Motz*


Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Leviticus 1-4
Monday: Leviticus 5-7
Tuesday: Leviticus 8-10
Wednesday: Leviticus 11-13
Thursday: Leviticus 14-16
Friday: Leviticus 17-19
Saturday: Psalms 22-24

VERSE TO REMEMBER

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers. —Psalm 24:1-2

VOWEL SCRAMBLE

DIRECTIONS: Replace each of the question marks below with one of the vowels — A, E, I, O or U — and then rearrange the letters to form a common word.

C	E	E	N	?

A	K	P	R	?

A	C	H	V	?

W	O	L	V	?

SAY WHAT?

Here are five well-known quotations, but they have been rewritten in a more literal sense than the original. Can you identify the original saying?

1. It is pointless to sob about an accident involving a dairy product.
2. Viewing something means being convinced it exists.
3. Everything that rises has to fall.
4. Split and win.
5. Frankness is the wisest course of action.

ANSWERS TO VOWEL SCRAMBLE: NIECE, PARKA, HAVOC, VOWEL, SAY WHAT?

1. No use crying over split milk.
2. Seeing is believing.
3. What goes up, must come down.
4. Divide and conquer.
5. Honesty is the best policy.