

Passionate

RESPONDING TO JESUS' PASSION THROUGH PRAYER AND WORSHIP

SUMMARY: EASTER PASSION – PASSIONATE IN PRAYER

WE ARE CALLED TO BE PASSIONATE ABOUT PRAYER BECAUSE:

- KEY POINT 1 – Jesus was and is (passionate about prayer)
 - His Passion in the Temple (Matthew 21:12-13)

He exhibited great passion for God's house of prayer, by clearing a marketplace setup from the temple, which should have been used for prayer.

- His Passion leading to Easter (Matthew 26:36-50; Luke 22:44)

In anticipation of His suffering, Jesus prepared by praying - He did so with earnest and sorrow and sweated blood. He prayed with passion, devotion, reverence, and frequency - We are called to do likewise.

- His continued passion (Romans 8:26-27, 34)

Jesus is still passionate about prayer, as He intercedes for us at the Father's right hand (Rom. 8:34), and He sent the Holy Spirit to us, who prays for us as well (Rom. 8:26-27).

- KEY POINT 2 – Prayer changes things

God chooses to work through our prayers. Our prayers in the physical realm affect the spiritual realm, which - in turn - affects the physical (cf. Daniel 9-10). Ephesians 6 calls us to pray in the Spirit always, as we are in a spiritual battle. Prayer is powerful - our greatest weapon and asset.

- KEY POINT 3 – It enables us to communicate with God

Prayer is a direct way of communicating, and creating intimacy, with God Himself - the God who created the universe, wants personal relationship with us, and loves us immeasurably.

QUESTIONS

CONVERSATION STARTER

1. Have you experienced any answers to prayer in your own life or in the lives of people you know? Share some of your experiences.

START THINKING AND SHARING

2. Do you believe prayer changes things? Why or why not? If we believe it does, how should this affect our opinion of prayer and our devotion to it (e.g. the length of time spent praying)?
3. As Jesus cleared the temple, what areas of our lives might we need to cleanse/clear in order to prioritise prayer more?

START PRAYING

4. Dear Lord, we ask you, Jesus, to come and flip over the tables of our hearts, where we have prioritised anything above prayer. We surrender to You any areas which have become like marketplaces in our temples. We ask that you turn our hearts into Houses of Prayer and give us passion for prayer like Jesus has. Amen.

START DOING

5. How can we actively become more passionate about prayer? Find, and discuss, ways to incorporate prayer more into your daily routine this week and beyond.