



Sermon Notes: The Prayer God Loves to Answer

1. The need for God.

2. The approach to God.

a. The merit approach.

- "*I am worthy, God owes me.*"

b. The mercy approach.

- "*I am unworthy, but I believe."*

3. The response from God.

a. Jesus marveled.

b. Jesus healed.

Gospel Applications:

1. We are saved on the basis of Christ's merits, not our own.

2. We should be praying and appealing to God on the basis of Christ's worthiness, not our own.



Application Questions: The Prayer God Loves to Answer

1. What did you learn about yourself by intentionally observing the fruit of your life over the past week? What did adversity or conflict reveal about you?
2. When you've heard others pray, what reasons do they give for why God should answer their prayers? (*"Lord, I ask that you do this, because..."*)
3. What are some ways you bargain with God? How do you hear yourself praying like the Jewish elders, who said to Jesus, *"He is worthy to have you do this for him, for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue"*?
4. The centurion's faith was exemplary in that it demonstrated 1) humility, 2) the abandonment of all other resources, and 3) trust in Christ's authority and compassion. Which of these is the easiest for you? Which is the hardest?
5. What resources is God calling you to abandon (and cease relying on) in order to seek His mercy?
6. Think of something you pray for often. How could you make this request on the basis of Jesus' mercy, rather than your own (or another person's) merits?
7. Why do you think Jesus is more drawn to our admission of unworthiness than our claims of how worthy we think we are?
8. People are generally far more open to the Gospel when life is difficult (in crisis or transition) than when life is easy or routine. Why do you think that is?
9. Look around you. What friends, neighbors, coworkers, etc., are going through either crisis or transition right now? What is his/her/their situation?
 - What needs are being revealed by this situation?
 - What emotions/reactions are being stirred up by this situation?
 - How does the Gospel speak to these needs?
 - What will you do to capitalize on this opportunity to share hope with him/her/them?
10. What one thing does God want you to do in response to His Word this week?