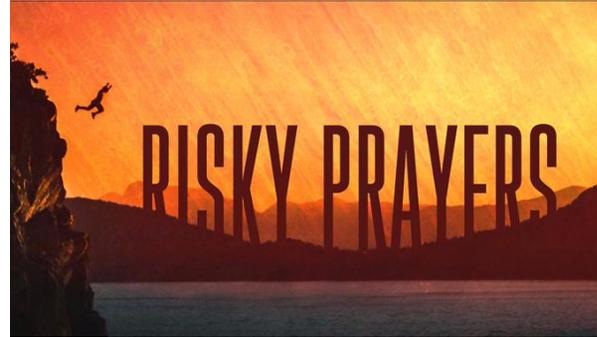


GROWTHguide

"Test Me"

October 8, 2017



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Genesis 22:1-9, Mark 14:1-5, 22-24

Galatians 2:20

DAY 1

Think about your prayer life and answer the following questions.

- Why do you pray?
- What is the process of your prayers? What is it you are asking when you pray?
- It has been said that 95% of what we pray comes true; it's the 5% that doesn't that disturbs us so. Why do you think that is? Think about a time when you felt let down by your prayers.

DAY 2

This week's message focused on the prayer, "Test Me." Pastor Bob explained that another way of putting it would be, "Break Me." There are times when we become broken

in life but the question is what do we do through our brokenness?

Read Genesis 22:1-19

- In the above passage, Abraham was tested. What kind of test was it? Why do you think God asked him to do what he did?
- How could Abraham have responded differently to this situation differently? Why do you believe he did what he did?
- Some say God never had it in his mind to have Isaac killed, but that the test was for Abraham to demonstrate his total obedience and to prove his mettle to be the leader God called him to be. How do you feel about this? Why?
- How did the test of Abraham end? What did God do to provide? Did Abraham pass the test? Why or why not?

DAY 3

Pastor Bob pointed out that praying the prayer, "Test Me" is a risky prayer.

- Do you agree or disagree with his statement?
- Have you ever prayed for God to test you? What happened?
- Why do you feel this kind of prayer, "Test me" is so powerful? Why is it necessary to pray this way?

DAY 4

Read Mark 14:1-5, 22-24

- How did the woman in the story demonstrate her love for Jesus?
- Why was it important for her to express extravagant worship to him?
- Upon reflecting with the story, what kind of "Test Me" prayer did the woman likely pray? Why?

In the second story, Jesus is paving the way for the new covenant by instituting the Lord's Supper. Luke records Jesus' words, "Do this in remembrance of me." As Pastor Bob explains, these words may have an alternate meaning than the institution of the sacrament. Perhaps Jesus' words were for us to live and love like Him and in so doing, we do his work in the world by "breaking ourselves" and "pouring ourselves out for His name's sake."

- How do you feel about that? Does this change the way you see things?

DAY 5

Read Galatians 2:20

- In the above passage, the Apostle Paul points out something important. He says, "*I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.*" What do you think that means?

- There is a lot said about "dying to self" and becoming a new creation. How does the risky prayer, "Test me" or "Break me" make this real?
- Now that you are more aware of this risky prayer perhaps it is not something to run away from. In what ways will you have more confidence to pray this prayer?

DAY 6

Today is a day of reflection and prayer. Maybe you are ready to take the risk and pray, "Test me," today. Maybe you feel you are already being tested, and you need God's help to make it through or to allow yourself to be changed by what you are going through. Wherever you are in your faith journey, let yourself be open and totally honest with the Lord in your prayers today. Lay your doubts and fears at his feet, and rely on him for the strength you need. Thank God for bringing you through times of brokenness and drawing you closer to him.

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