

Does My Prayer Please God?

(S Stands for Scripture)

Lesson Aim: I want my students to know that God is pleased when we pray unselfish prayers and to begin to pray more for others and less for self.

Memory Verse: Psalm 37:4

Lesson Scripture: 1 Kings 3:5, 9-14

Introduction: Someone whose prayers were full of faith and high sounding words, but centered on self. There's something very wrong with her prayers. Listen to today's Bible story and see if you can find out what is wrong.

God has promised to answer the prayers of believers. (John 16:23-24). But even before Jesus came, God told someone to pray for anything and he would get it.

1 Kings 3:5 God's Offer

Q-Where was Solomon (vs. 4). He went to sacrifice there.

A-Solomon sleeping, God's offer

S-God said, Ask what I shall give you

1 Kings 3:6-8 Solomon expresses humility and need

1 Kings 3:9 Solomon's request

Q-What did Solomon ask for?

Who will be helped if Solomon gets his request?

How did he want to use this gift?

A-Solomon kneels and repeats his prayer phrase by phrase

S-And Solomon prayed, "Give thy servant an understanding heart."

1 Kings 3:10 God is pleased.

Q-How did God feel about Solomon's Request?

A-God showed His pleasure

S-"And his speech pleased the Lord"

1 Kings 3:11-12 Solomon's prayer is answered.

Q-God is pleased for what two reasons?

A-He asked THIS thing and NOT other things.

What are some of the things that would NOT have pleased God?

Long life—for self

Riches---things---money---for self

Retribution—getting back at somebody

Q-How does God answer?

A-Solomon sleeping

God answering (phrase by phrase)

(Shake head yes for God answering)

S-“Because you have asked this thing and have not asked for yourself, behold, I have done according to thy words.”

I Kings 3: 13-14 More than he asked for was given.

Q-What did God give that Solomon didn't even ask for?

A-Riches, honor, long life if he obeyed God's rules

Q-Did Solomon ask for his own needs, or for those of others?

A-Did Solomon lack because he asked for others?

Application

What was right about Solomon's prayer?

What was wrong with the woman's prayer (remember the introduction)?

God is pleased with unselfish prayers.

Will you begin to pray more for others and less to get things for yourself?

If time allows, demonstrate several examples of good prayers for others.

Pastor, local church, Muslims, unsaved, government leaders, etc.

Will you pray for the salvation of others this week? Let's see how many days you can remember to do it.

Memory verse: Psalm 37:4