

RAISE THE MARK

OCTOBER 2008

Welcome to Raise the Mark! Please introduce yourself to those with whom you will be praying and briefly share something you would like to pray about with them in your time together.

THE HEART OF A DISCIPLE

Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. John 14:13-14

The truest mark of a disciple is that his desire, heart and mind are increasingly conformed to the desire, heart and mind of the one he seeks to be the disciple of. A true disciple will learn to love what his discipler loves, hate what his discipler hates and live as his discipler lived...a true disciple wants what his discipler wants. Every great disciple then, must be ready for the day when providence affords them the opportunity to hear these words, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

A worthy disciple must be ready to reply with a request that reflects their teacher's will, not their own. Knowing that our Lord has said, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." (Matthew 7:7), we may assert that we all have been presented this opportunity; we all are invited to come "boldly before the [one who reigns on the] throne of grace" and request that He do for us "whatever we ask." We must do this, however, remembering that nothing reveals as much about where we are in our maturing as a disciple of Christ as what we say in the moment which follows hearing God say, "What do you want Me to do for you?" What we ask, what we show to be our desire, what breaks free from the deep waters of our hearts and inches forward from our mind to influence our lips, defines us. Understanding this, today we will purpose to pray together as informed disciples should pray.

Today we will ask God to do for us the things that His Word tells us we should want done. Today we will let God's Word guide our hearts and minds, (and therefore our prayers) so that as He seeks out for "Himself a man after His own heart..." (1 Samuel 13:14)...it is our heads He would choose to anoint and our lives He would seek to use to the glory of His name and for the good of His people.

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO FOR YOU?

- Tell Him you want Him to make "... the words of your mouth and the meditation of your heart to be acceptable in His sight, as the Lord, your rock and your Redeemer." (Psalm 19:14)
- Ask Him to make you a "true worshiper who will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. (John 4:23)
- Tell Him you want Him to make you authentic in your repentance and confession, for you know He does "...not delight in sacrifice, otherwise you would give it; You know He is not pleased with burnt offering. You know the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, I know you will not despise." (Psalm 51:16-17)
- Ask Him to remind you daily that "He does not delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord...Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams." (1 Samuel 15:22)
- Ask Him to make you one who knows and practices "...what is good; And what ... the Lord requires of you...to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8)
- Tell Him you want to "...Do justice and righteousness, and deliver the one who has been robbed from the power of his oppressor. Tell him you don't want to.... mistreat or do violence to the stranger, the orphan, or the widow or to shed any innocent blood.." (Jeremiah 22:3)
- Tell Him you want to be one that affirms that His "...hand made all creation, Thus all these things came into being." Ask Him to make you as one upon whom "He will look, a servant who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at His word." (Isaiah 66:2) Tell Him you want Him to show you where you are not obeying, listening to or trembling at His word. Tell Him you want to be completely convicted of lukewarmness, apathy or indifference to His word. (Rev 3:16) Tell Him you don't want to be someone who, "Honors Him with their lips while your hearts are far from Him." (Matthew 15:8)
- Tell Him you want Him to make you one who "seeks first His kingdom and His righteousness, and one who believes that as you do this all other good things will be added to you." (Matthew 6:33)
- Tell Him you want Him to make you, "the salt of the earth... the light of the world, a city set on a hill which cannot be

hidden...one whose light shines before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:13,14,16)

- Ask Him to make you one who goes and makes “disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that He commanded you; and constantly remembering that He is with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)
- Tell Him you want Him to make you one who loves “the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind” and one who “loves your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37-39)
- Tell Him you want Him to continually allow you to be “filled with the Spirit”, “walk in the light”, and to “let the word of God richly dwell within you”, and ask Him to show you where you need to repent of selfish motives, attitudes or actions that are inconsistent with His will. (Phil. 2:3-5)
- Tell Him you want to be someone who is biblically based, Christ-centered, grounded in grace, passionate about prayer, committed to the uncommitted, authentic in your walk, committed to community, relevant, innovative and focused on ministry and service, and ask Him to lead you.
- Tell Him you want to be increasingly committed to His Word, His purposes and His people; competent in doctrine and living life; connected with others, contributing with gladness and prayerfully creative in considering, designing and pursuing new ministry ideas.
- Ask Him to “search you and know your heart.” Pray, “try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.” (Psalm 139:23-24)
- “Cease striving and know that He is God; He will be exalted among the nations, He will be exalted in the earth.” (Psalm 46:10). Tell Him you want Him to quiet your heart. Ask Him to speak to your inner man. Tell Him you want Him to convict, instruct, lead and comfort you as is appropriate to your need. Tell Him you want to be still before Him.

PRAYING FOR OTHERS

- Children – Pray that our kids would be increasingly excited about sharing Christ with others. Pray that the things they are learning and their commitment to follow Christ would truly change the way they live their lives and the decisions they make.
- Volunteers - Pray that our existing volunteers would continue to be excited about using their gifts to share Christ with children. Pray for creativity and commitment.
- Pray that new volunteers would come forward to serve in Children’s Ministry. Pray specifically for passionate and gifted leaders who are willing to teach twice a month as well as willing servants to join them in the classroom to love kids.
- Pray for marriages at Watermark. Pray that God would deal with our hard-heartedness toward each other as spouses.

Pray for the hundreds of couples currently at “ReEngage.”

- Pray for our singles community. Pray that they would enjoy, encourage and edify each other during their single years. Pray that they would be vibrant in ministry, pure in life-style, and full of joy, contentment and peace. Pray that they seek first the Lord and not a spouse.
- Pray for your “Top 10”. Ask Him to make you one who is intentionally living to “seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10). Pray that all of us would “make room for them” in our lives through stewardship of time, treasure and talents.
- Pray for those who will be joining us for our upcoming series, “What in the World Are You Thinking”.
- Pray for our Celebrate Recovery ministry on Monday nights. Pray that many would find healing, hope and freedom.
- Pray for those you know in our body that are struggling with physical and emotional illnesses.
- Pray for our elders, Dean MacFarlan, Brett Johnston, Kyle Thompson, Scott Coy and Todd Wagner.
- Pray for our community leaders and shepherds -- that they would love, serve, care and correct those in their care.
- Pray for those who are struggling to connect with our body and pray that they would communicate with us so we can serve them.
- Pray for those in our body in the midst of conflict. Pray that they would remember the Peacemaker Pledge in our membership covenant. Pray that they would contact others if they need help working through their conflict.
- Pray that the Lord would use the Journey materials and all the men’s and women’s groups that meet on Wed./Thurs. and to grow our understanding and yieldedness to His purposes.
- Praise Him for the life-change and “sense of awe” that is happening daily in our midst. “One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of Your majesty and on Your wonderful works, I will meditate. Men shall speak of the power of Your awesome acts, and I will tell of Your greatness. They shall eagerly utter the memory of Your abundant goodness and will shout joyfully of Your righteousness” (Psalm 145:4-7).

ALLOW OTHERS TO KNOW

- Share with others how God has shown His abundant goodness to you or as necessary ask others to pray that His glorious splendor and wonderful works be manifested in your life and/or circumstance.