

**Prayer Series**  
**Don't Bother**  
**11/27/21**  
**Newport News**

**Pre/Sermon**

-Acts 27:1-3 (next day favor is coming for someone)

-Acts 27:10-15 & Acts 28:7-10 (every crisis carries us to people who need Jesus)

**Opening/Introduction**

-can we do a participation moment...I miss these! (favorite bite...)

-final week in prayer series...

-new series in December "Emmanuel, God with us...are you?"

-Does the Bible every tell us not to pray...or simply: Don't Bother!

**4 Myths About Prayer**

-**"I'm too far from God."** (tell story of Young Life Camp line vs. circle)

- Psalm 145:18
- Isaiah 59:1 (talk about being the guy, **"Can you reach this?"**)
- This isn't because He has really long arms...lol! He is near!

-**"I've done too many bad things."**

- 1 Peter 3:12 (the question actually is: "Are you ready to change?")
- 1 John 1:9

-**"I don't know how to pray the right way."** (The Harry Potter mentality)

- Jeremiah 33:3
- Psalm 62:8
- Psalm 42:5 (another example of David talking to himself!)
- Trust in God...not your prayer eloquence!

## **-“What I need seems impossible.”**

- Jeremiah 32:17
- Matthew 19:26

**-So does the Bible ever tell me not to pray...YES!**

## **When You Already Know**

### **-Exodus 14:1-22 (ref)**

- (talk about the appeal process in GKGW)
- prayer should never be a delay tactic!
- the point here is prayer connected to decisions...obedience

-But what about when we are wrestling, not because we lack faith or are rebellious...but because we just feel overwhelmed...

- (talk about how hard it was to move here...took us a year)
- (tell story of talking to Dick Foth...if there is no risk of failure, there is no room for God)
- (being at the altar that one Sunday)

-Luke 22:39-46

- Matthew 26 tells us Jesus prayer 3 times...
- (*distinction between confiding in God and resisting Him*)

## **When They Really Don't Care**

### **-Jeremiah 7:3-7**

-Jeremiah 7:16-17

-Jeremiah 11:14

-Jeremiah 14:11

*-I don't believe our prayers can contravene the freewill of other people. This is why I often pray that God will send people across their path to point them to Jesus. I think this is why Jesus says to pray to the Lord of the harvest for Him to send laborers into the field and why Paul asks in Romans 10 how can we expect*

*people to call on Jesus for salvation unless people are sent into the world with the message of The Gospel!*

-2 Peter 3:9

(so pray for people who have yet to be found by Jesus until God says otherwise!)

### **When You Should Know Better**

**-1 Peter 3:7**

>different from the first one in that these all involved reasons that are SAME for everyone!!!

-Proverbs 28:9

-Isaiah 59:2

### **Band**

-Proverbs 15:29

-Proverbs 21:13

*>This sets us up for the next series...Incarnational Living...detaching yourself from your church family (without good cause) is dangerous because you are shrinking the number of voices in your life who are going to love you enough to challenge you!*

### **Close**

-Isaiah 65:1