**Scripture:** Acts 4

**Singing:** 367:1, 4, 5 – 437:1-3 – 103:1-4 – 87:1-3

Intro: *Who are the most Christlike Christians?*

A. Consider Jesus’ personal prayer life

 1. Luke 3:21 – 5:16 – 6:12 – 9:18 – 9:29

 2. This example of the Jesus as the Son of man should convict us

 a. If He ‘needed’ prayer time, why wouldn’t we need it?

B. Prayer is one of the means of grace God uses to further His own work

1. Example of early Christians is exhortation (Acts 4:23-31)

**Christian Prayer (2)**

I. The *why?* II. The *How?*  III. The *what?*

**II. The *requisites* of the Christian prayer?**

A. How do we think about God when we speak to Him in prayer?

 1. Lord’s instruction in Luke 11:5-13 is *theology about God*

 2. As we pray *… examine*

 a. do you have clear view of *Him as the majesty in heaven?*

 b. do you hold clear view of *His holy justice?*

 c. do you view Him as a *Heavenly Father, filled with compassion?*

 3. As we pray *… do we speak our hearts to Him?*

B. How do we think about ourselves in prayer?

 1. True prayer begins when we lose our rights before God!

 a. face therefore the *facts* of your misery

 2. God will never allow His people to lose this ‘self-knowledge’

C. How do you think of Jesus Christ – knowledge of faith?

 1. Solid ground and access in prayer is *not anything in or by us*

 2. Solid ground open access and confidence in prayer is *Jesus Christ*

**III. The ‘What” of Christian prayer**

(following sermons)

**Closing Thoughts on the Lord’s Prayer …**

A. Our earthly things of daily needs aren’t first and foremost

B. Our prayers are always to have the element of *corporate prayer*

**Worthwhile Thoughts on Prayer**

Prayer is not wrestling with God’s reluctance to bless us.

It is laying hold on His willingness to bless. (Luther)

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Believing prayer never asks more than is promised.

But neither does it ask less. (W. Plumer)

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God does not keep office-hours. (W. Tozer)

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God shapes the world by prayer (Bounds)

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In prayer, while we seek in appearance to bend God’s will to ours,

in reality, our will is bend to His when we abide before Him in prayer.

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There is nothing natural man hates more than prayer (M’Cheyne)