



# DIGGING DEEPER

Matthew 17v14-20 – Prayer-Dependent

**PLEASE READ** – Matthew 17v1-20

## **GETTING STARTED**

What words would you use to describe your current prayer life?

What words would you love to add to that list and what would you want to take away?!

### **1) THE POSTURE – OF THE FATHER (v14-16)**

As you examine the posture of the father in prayer, do you think the three words below are a helpful description? What other words might you use?

- Deliberate
- Dependent
- Desperate

What are the specific challenges for you as you reflect on your own prayer life and compare that with the posture of the father?

How helpful / unhelpful can physical gestures (ie kneeling / arms raised) be in helping the heart express itself appropriately?

## **2) THE POWER – OF JESUS (v17-18)**

Discuss the 'two rebukes' of Jesus and what each of them teaches us about our loving saviour...

How should a fuller understanding of the power and authority of Jesus impact the way we approach God in prayer?

## **A GREAT LESSON – IN FAITH (v19-20)**

With v20 in view, what is the answer to the disciple's question in v19? (See also Mark 9v28-29)

How do the **mustard seed** and the **mountain** challenge our understanding of faith and the call to prayerful dependence?

What are the more notable mountains (seemingly immovable obstacles) in your life? Take them to the Lord in prayer and do it now!

**Robert Murray M'Cheyne:** *"What a man is on his knees before God, that he is and nothing more."*

**Meditate on the words of the Solomon below...**

**Psalms 127v1:** Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain.