

Luke 11:1-13 read, 1-3.....

Next Thursday we are having our semi-annual day of prayer, and I thought this morning it would be good for us to think a little bit about the subject of prayer, and beginning to think about its importance. Why do we set aside a day out each semester in which we have no classes, a day which we call a day of prayer?

I believe we are all familiar with the fact that the Bible lays great importance upon the matter of prayer. That the word prayer occurs repeatedly in both testaments of the Bible, that our Lord Jesus Christ in this passage, and in many other passages, urged us to show importunity, urged us to come before our God with prayer, with ....3½.... with requests, not to neglect prayer. That Paul said, praying without ceasing, that prayer is given great importance in the Bible. We are commanded repeatedly in the Scripture that we should pray, that we should pray without ceasing, that we should constantly give this matter of prayer a place of great importance in our lives, and in our activities. ~~Now~~ Not only are we specifically commanded in many passages in the Bible to pray, but the importance of prayer is repeatedly stressed in the Bible. In I Samuel 12:23 we have a passage which to me is one of the most striking in this connection. In I Sam. 12 you remember, that Samuel came to Saul after Saul had grievously sinned against the Lord. You remember that Saul had sinned so grievously that it was necessary for Samuel to pronounce very severe condemnation upon him, and upon the people. And after Samuel pronounced all this severe condemnation in the chapter upon Saul and upon the people, we find that in v.20 Samuel said to the people. Fear not. Ye have done all this wickedness, turn not aside from following the Lord. But serve the Lord with all your heart and turn not aside, for then should you go after vain things which cannot profit nor deliver, for they are vain, for the Lord will not forsake his people, for his great ~~name's~~ name's sake, because it has pleased to make you his people. Moreover, as for me, God forbid that I should sin against