

Prayer's Possibilities

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Numbers 11:4-34.

B. God is the beginning, means and end of prayer—prayer pulls man into God while still leaving him fully man.

II. Moses is surprisingly unimpressive in himself.

A. Moses was so shaken in his self-image that he would not yield to God.

B. God's anger rose up against him.

III. Just a handful of people can raise discontent among the crowds.

IV. God's answer to Moses' prayer.

A. He guides Moses to divide the labor.

1. God chose elders in both Testaments to relieve the burden of a pastor. (Acts)
2. Solutions came from God and not from men.
3. In the New Testament, the Spirit of God is upon the entire congregation, which is remarkable.
4. God was showing that His prescription for ministry was dependence upon the Spirit.

B. Criticism all ends up being an insult to the power and presence of God.

1. This awakens the anger of God that we should be ungrateful.
2. We should at least give God an opportunity to display His power among us.

C. God brought quail from the sea to feed the murmuring people.

1. They ate quail until they could not stand it anymore.
2. God supplied their need.
3. God frequently teaches His people by answering their prayers.

D. God smote the people with a great plague.

1. God singled out the perpetrators.

2. Those with cravings were punished.

E. God answered this prayer even though it was a terrible prayer because it was recognition of Moses' own weakness and God's ability.

1. Prayer sees Him who is invisible. (Hebrews 11)

2. God answers our prayers even in our weakness so that we might grow.

Application questions:

1. What was terrible about God's prayer?

2. Why did God answer Moses' prayer anyway?

3. How would you respond to someone who says prayer does not work? Explain.
