

Top Priority

In Bible times, important tasks seem to have been started early in the morning. Whether the task was leaving on a journey (Genesis 22:1-3), gathering the day's food (Exodus 16:21), or beginning the day's work (Matthew 20:1-4), they began first thing, in early morning.

This was particularly true when the task was in obedience to God (Genesis 22:1-3; 28:18; Joshua 6:12-21; Nehemiah 8:1-3; Luke 21:37-38). Artificial light was limited, and daylight was precious. Starting a task early meant it was important. By his or her actions, the doer was saying, "This task has top priority with me. I am eager to start, and I want to make sure it gets done."

For the godly, that principle applied to prayer as well.

*In the morning, O Lord, You will hear my voice;
In the morning I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch. (Psalm 5:3, NASB)*

*I, O Lord, have cried out to You for help,
And in the morning my prayer comes before You. (Psalm 88:13, NASB)*

*I rise before dawn and cry for help;
I wait for Your words. (Psalm 119:147, NASB)*

These psalmists are saying,

"Praying to You about this is the most important thing to me.
I'm not leaving it to chance or 'If I get around to it.'
Lord, I need YOU!"

What are you saying to God by how you prioritize prayer –

"Father, I am completely dependent on You!" or
"Maybe later"?

*Father, are there any ways in which
my daily actions don't live up to
my commitment to You?
In Your mercy, show me.
I want to walk in You.*

Hymn: [Do You Talk to the Lord?](#)