

## Carroll Chapel: Aug 16, 2022

### ***Erin Newton***

It is our pleasure to have Don Day come and give us a devotional word this morning. If you have never met Don, I would probably say that you're lying because he is in all of our lives. He is our librarian. He is our resource life saver. He's also working on his Ph.D. and finds time to preach multiple times during the year.

So it's a total joy to have Don speak to us today, and I will let him take it from here.

### ***Don Day***

Aaron is totally overrating me. An underrated in herself. Carl is the director of our i.t. Who is making this possible. Aaron is the director of our cpa and who is also making all of this possible. So for all the possibles that are going on here, i'm bringing a little something. If a thing is worth doing well, Lord Acton says it is worth doing, if it's worth doing well.

And that's why Aaron and Carl were here. But if a thing is worth doing badly. Well, I'm here to welcome to Carol North. I like to call it boxing because I'm still packed with boxes that will probably come to Texas eventually one of these years. And I've got an object here on one of my boxes, high enough that you could see it.

But I'll talk about my radio later. Will you open your Bibles with me? I like to look with you, and we're in the Book of Mark, second of the Gospels. It's number two in your New Testament. I'm looking here at the passage where just in chapter one, first 35, very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up and left the house and went off to a solitary place where he prayed.

Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed, Everyone is looking for you. Jesus replied, Let us go somewhere else, to the nearby villages so I can preach there. Also. That is why I have come. So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons. If you'll pray with me briefly.

God, everything that you have told us in Scripture, you've given to us for our benefit there, your letters to us there, your communication to us. They're a place where we come to hear from you. Thank you, God, that you give us the opportunity to speak back over to you through prayer. In Jesus name, amen. I've been told by Dr. Cotto, the director of our master's program, that this is a devotional don't preach.

Keep it short. I'm going to work hard that right now. You may be thinking that it's sort of odd that I've got the radio here, but I think it ties into Jesus's ministry and what Mark is calling the good news about Jesus Christ. When Jesus came in the Book of Mark, we have an awful lot of action going on up to the point that I've brought you to, and I'd love to linger over it.

I can't do it, but I think it's maybe the most important thing that as Jesus was getting prepared to start his ministry, God blessed him and said that He was his beloved son and that he would be doing what God wanted him to do. So he immediately, according to Mark, goes out into the wilderness and spends 40 days being tempted by the devil.

The devil, I think, was expecting, you know, 40 days of trench warfare. He would tempt Jesus and Jesus came to the battle not for trench warfare, but with an Abrams tank, with a bulldozer blade on the front of it. He was filling in the trenches. The devil is overwhelmed. The devil is not able to distract and keep Jesus from doing his ministry.

And Jesus won't even let the devil and his cohorts speak. Jesus is going in and preaching in the synagogues and healing the sick and driving the demons out. They've got to hit the road. How does Jesus find all of the energy, all the power in which to do this on? Scripture tells us that early in the morning this was a good time for him.

He got away and prayed and spoke to God on his own.

The CPN is like that Carol. Prayer work is one of those ways that we can re-energize ourselves while we're busy learning, while we're busy teaching, while we're busy doing ministry. While some of us I'm thinking, particularly those counselors out there, are making the sick better and maybe driving demons out while we're doing all of these things that God wants us to do, that he that He has blessed us with, that He gives us to do and gives us the strength for he wants us to recharge the batteries in the same way that Jesus did His.

So I brought my radio here thinking that, you know, my little standard radio is a lot like my Bible. It does give me communication to me from God, which strengthens and encourages me. But thankfully, I'm not just limited to a standard radio. God's also given us a short wave radio that we can send messages to him. And that's what the Carol Prayer Network is about.

It's one of the values that Carol brings to what we do in our teaching and learning and makes available to our students. It's one of the reasons that we're spending this time after this devotional, to spend some time praying. But I know I mentioned a lot of C.S. Lewis, but I'm also kind of a fan of Pasko. And it's Pascal who said that in prayer, God gives us human beings the dignity of causality.

We get to participate in the good work that God's doing. So you may be preaching, healing, doing all of these other things. Take a moment now and I'll turn things back over to Aaron so that we can begin our type of guided prayer together.

***Erin Newton***

Thank you so much, Don. It's really encouraging to just sit and reflect on the Lord taking that time to to to pray and that, you know, through that, he continues on the work. And in the smallest measure we get to imitate that same work.

***Don Day***

Other thank you for giving us ears to hear for opening your ears to see what we've prayed. Father, you have the power to bring into its full completion in your time. Help us, Lord. That will be able to see and know and place our faith in the power that you have. And then the love that you have for each of us.

In Jesus name, we ask and pray these things. Amen.