

Thursday Evening, June 16 (on bus) - Cindy Talley
"I MUST TELL JESUS"

In Timothy Keller's book, *Prayer*, the first sentence in chapter one states: "In the second half of my adult life, I discovered prayer." And his next sentence is, "I had to." Haven't we all been there? Maybe our most sincere prayers only come when things are really tough, but we shouldn't wait until those rough patches. In "I Must Tell Jesus", the lyrics are:

I must tell Jesus all of my trials;
I cannot bear these burdens alone.
In my distress He kindly will help me;
He ever loves and cares for His own.

While these are comforting words, what is the actual expectation for us concerning prayer? Jesus offered His example in Matthew 6:9-13:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

In this prayer we see adoration, petition, thanksgiving, and confession. Our prayers should include each of these elements as we approach God with our humanity. He knows our hearts well before we voice our prayers, but He desires the conversation. Keller says that "...prayer is the continuation of a conversation that God has started". Isn't it powerful and humbling to know that God wants to talk with us and that He will? But, we must give Him our time and attention that is not interrupted. Find a quiet place right now and offer God your adoration, petition, thanksgiving, and confession. Write about your conversation with the Father.