

Let Us Pray—The Way Jesus Did (Part 1)

INTRODUCTION:

1. Jesus left us an example, that we should follow in His steps (1 Peter 2:21).
2. Let's look at the example He left us of prayer. Let's notice some things about the way He approached prayer, and make some practical application to our prayers.

BODY:

- I. Jesus often went to a solitary place to pray.
 - A. Passages
 1. Read Mark 1: 35.
 - a. He went to a “solitary place”—where He could be by himself, and where there would be no distractions.
 2. Matthew 14:23: He “went up on a mountain by Himself to pray.”
 3. Luke 5:16: He “often withdrew into the wilderness to pray.”
 4. Luke 9:18: “He was alone praying.”
 5. Jesus did sometimes pray in the presence of other people, but He also saw the value in getting off by himself to a solitary place, a place where He could not be interrupted, a place where there would be no distractions.
 - B. If Jesus saw the value in doing this, then we should, too.
 1. We are taught to pray together as we assemble for worship, and certainly it is good for families to pray together, but it is also good to be alone with our heavenly Father, in a place where we don't have to worry about interruptions, a place where there are no distractions, where we can concentrate solely on prayer.
 2. Read Matthew 6:5-6.
 3. I think we all realize that prayer can be offered at any time, in any place; but there must be some value in that “solitary place.”
 4. In Colossians 4:2 and James 5:16, we are taught to pray earnestly and fervently. Sometimes that's easier to do in a “solitary place.”

II. Jesus made time for prayer.

A. Read Mark 1:32-35.

1. Jesus got up very early, just so he could pray. He made time for prayer.
2. There is a difference in this and *praying as we have time*, or as *we can find the time*. There is even a difference in this and *praying because we have time*. Jesus made time for prayer, and so should we.
3. Most of us, I'm sure, have pretty busy schedules. We've got our jobs which take up a lot of time. There are children who have to be gotten ready for school, children who have to be taken here and there, meals which have to be prepared, houses which have to be cleaned, yards which have to be cut or raked. And the list goes on and on. But are we any busier than Jesus was? I don't believe so. Prayer is important enough that we should make time for it.
4. A few passages should help us see the importance of it.
 - a. Philippians 4:6-7: (6) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; (7) and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
 - b. Colossians 4:2: Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; (NKJ)
 - c. 1 Thess. 5:17: pray without ceasing, (NKJ)
 - d. 1 Timothy 2:1-4: (1) Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, {and} giving of thanks be made for all men, (2) for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. (3) For this {is} good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, (4) who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
 - e. James 5:16 Confess {your} trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. (NKJ)
5. The next time you sing the song, "Take Time to Be Holy," look carefully at the first line—"Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord."

III. Jesus had a lot to pray about.

A. Read Luke 6:12.

1. We don't know all the details of this night spent in prayer to God. We don't know if it was one continuous prayer, or a series of prayers interrupted by moments of rest or meditation. We don't know if He repeated some of His requests, or if the night was spent praying for different things.
2. But when we see someone praying as often as Jesus did, and also see Him spending a whole night in prayer, we know that He had a lot to pray about.
3. And Jesus is not the only example we are given. The example of the apostle Paul encourages us as well. Paul speaks of praying always, without ceasing, night and day. Jesus and Paul had a lot to pray about.
4. And we do to. Consider first the thanksgiving part of prayer. In Acts 17:25 we are told that God "gives to all life, breath, all things." In Ephesians 1:3, we are told that God has "blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ." So if we did nothing but give thanks, we would still spend an awful lot of time in prayer.
5. But consider some of the things we are to petition God for: our daily bread, for strength against temptation, forgiveness, that the Lord send laborers into the harvest, to speak the word with boldness, for elders, marriage, for help in raising our children, for our spiritual growth, and the spiritual growth of others, that we might be perfect and complete in all the will of God, that our love would abound more and more, open door for the word, those in authority, those who are sick, those who are suffering, for safe travel, etc.

CONCLUSION:

1. Read Hebrews 4:14-16. Let's make sure we set aside plenty of time to do just what this passage encourages us to do.
2. Some of you do not have the wonderful privilege discussed in this passage. In Hebrews 10:21, we learn that Christ is a High Priest over the house of God, or the family of God. If you are not one of God's children, then you do not have this privilege. By obeying the gospel this morning, you will have Christ, not only as your Savior, but as your High Priest as well.