

Let Us Pray—the Way Jesus Did (Part 2)

INTRODUCTION:

1. Last week we looked at three things about the prayers of Jesus.
 - a. He often went to a “solitary place” to pray.
 - b. He made time to pray.
 - c. He had a lot to pray about.
2. Let’s look now at some other things about the prayers of Jesus, which can serve as an example to us.

BODY:

- I. Jesus prayed with thanksgiving.
 - A. Examples
 1. Read Matthew 11:20-26.
 - a. This is a strange time to be giving thanks, in that Jesus was talking about the judgment of certain cities, because they would not repent.
 - b. But Jesus thanks the Father that even though the gospel is hidden from some because of their attitude, it is received by babes—those who have the humility of a child.
 2. Read Matthew 15:32-36.
 - a. This is the occasion when Jesus feeds a multitude of people with seven loaves of bread and a few fish.
 - b. When we give thanks before a meal, we are following the example of Jesus.
 3. Read Matthew 26:26-28.
 - a. Of course, we follow the example of Jesus every Sunday. We give thanks before we eat of the bread and the fruit of the vine.
 4. Read John 11: 38-42 .
 - a. Jesus thanks His Father for hearing His prayer. We should thank God for the very same thing.
 - B. So we have the example of Jesus teaching us that we should pray with thanksgiving. But in addition to His example, we also have some specific instruction.
 1. Read Philippians 4:6.
 2. PSA 107:8 Oh, that {men} would give thanks to the Lord {for} His goodness, And {for} His wonderful works to the children of men!

- a. He has given us life, breath, all things (Acts 17:25).
- b. He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly {places} in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).
- c. For the word of God, the Lord's death and resurrection, peace, joy, forgiveness, contentment, hope, brethren, etc.
- d. Remember the ten lepers—only one returned to say thank you (Luke 17:11-19).

II. Jesus prayed that the Father's will—not His—be done.

- A. Let's first notice Jesus doing this Himself, and then let's notice that He taught His disciples to do the same.
 - 1. Read Matthew 26:36-44, which tells us how Jesus prayed the night he was betrayed.
 - 2. In Matthew 6:9-10, we see that Jesus taught His disciples to pray in the same manner.
- B. Let's notice some other passages which teach the same idea.
 - 1. Read James 4: 13-15, which is not really talking about prayer, but does show that we should always be conscious of the Lord's will.
 - 2. And this should certainly be true in prayer. Read 1 John 5:14-15.
 - a. When we make our requests, let's make sure that we ask that His will be done, and not ours.

III. Jesus prayed with confidence.

- A. Again, let's look at Jesus doing this, and then the teaching He did on the same subject.
 - 1. Read John 11:41-42, which shows the confidence Jesus had that His Father heard and answered His prayers.
 - 2. Now let's notice the teaching that He did on this same subject.
 - a. Read Matthew 7:7-11.
 - b. Read Mark 11: 24 (must understand this in light of other passages). We cannot ask for things to spend on our pleasures (James 4:2-3). It must be according to His will (1 John 5:14-15).
- B. Let's notice some other passages which encourage us to pray with boldness or confidence.
 - 1. Read Hebrews 4:14-16.
 - 2. Read James 1:5-8.
 - 3. Read 1 John 5:14-15.

IV. Jesus prayed for others as well as for Himself.

A. Examples

1. Read Luke 22:31-34.
 - a. We may need to do this very thing for our brethren.
2. Read John 17:1-26, where Jesus prays first for Himself, then for His apostles, and then for those who would believe on Jesus through the words of the apostles.

B. We need to follow His example in praying for others.

1. In Paul's epistles, he would mention how he was praying for the brethren, for their faith, their love, etc.
2. And he would request their prayers, too.
 - a. Read Ephesians 6:18-20, which is one example.
3. Read Colossians 4:12.
 - a. We need to do just what Epaphras was doing.
4. Read 1 Timothy 2: 1-4.
5. Read James 5:16.
6. Read 1 Samuel 12:23.
 - a. Let's not sin against the Lord by failing to pray for each other.

CONCLUSION:

1. Let's review the points we've made about the prayers of Jesus.
 - a. He often went to a "solitary place."
 - b. He made time to pray.
 - c. He had a lot to pray about.
 - d. He prayed with thanksgiving.
 - e. He prayed that the Father's will be done. He prayed with confidence.
 - f. Those of us who are Christians should be praying for those who are not.
 - g. He prayed for others as well as for Himself.
2. Those of us who are Christians should be praying for those who are not.