

Sunday Morning Message

September 15, 2019 (This text preached on 04-03-16 *Looking Unto Jesus ... Prayer*)

Principles About Prayer from the Sermon on the Mount

Text for Today's Message – Matthew 6:1 – 15; Luke 11:1 - 13

Congregational Reading – Matthew 6:9 - 13

Introduction

If God the Son took the time to pray with His Heavenly Father, ought not we realize as well the importance of communing with God in prayer? Brother Charlie Clark once said that prayer is the most spiritual thing that we do, and I agree. The Gospels are replete with prayers from many different people, but our focus for this message will be the prayers of the Lord Jesus, and the principles that He teaches regarding our prayer life.

I have included below a chronological list of the prayers of our Lord while He was here on the earth.

Chronology of Jesus Prayers

- 1 Luke 3:21 - At His baptism
- 2 Mark 1:35; Luke 4:42 – Before His preaching tour in Galilee
- 3 Luke 5:16 – After healing a leper
- 4 Luke 6:12 – Before choosing the Twelve
- 5 John 6:11 – Before feeding the 5000 – Note – Matthew, Mark, and Luke all say that Jesus blessed the bread, but here in John it says He gave thanks.
- 6 Matthew 14:23; Mark 6:46; John 6:15 – After feeding the 5000
- 7 Luke 9:18 – Before Peter's confession of who Christ is.
- 8 Luke 9:28 - 29 – During the Transfiguration
- 9 Matthew 11:25 – 27; Luke 10:21 - 22 - After the return of the seventy
- 10 Luke 11:1 – After the dinner with Mary and Martha
- 11 Matthew 19:13 – 15; Mark 10:13 – 16; Luke 18:15 – 17 – With Small Children
- 12 John 11:41 – 42 – Before raising Lazarus
- 13 John 12:27 – 28 – At the Triumphal Entry
- 14 John 17 – The Real Lord's Prayer
- 15 Matthew 26:39 – 44; Mark 14:35 – 39; Luke 22:41 – 44 – The three Garden Prayers

16 Luke 23:34; Matthew 27:46,47; Mark 15:34 - 36; Luke 23:46 – The three prayers on the cross

Jesus prayed all of the time in many places, and he teaches us the importance of prayer.

“What the Church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use--men of prayer, men mighty in prayer.”

- E.M.Bounds

“You can do more than pray, after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed.” - John Bunyon

“I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me seemed insufficient for the day.”

- A. Lincoln.

I The Place of His Prayers

Jesus did not confine His prayers to any particular, geographic location. He prayed all of the time, and in a variety of places. He often prayed privately, but He also prayed publically.

A Where He Prayed

- 1 Solitary, desert places (Mark 1:35; Luke 4:42)
- 2 The wilderness (Luke 5:16)
- 3 A mountain (Luke 6:12; Matthew 14:23; Mark 6:46; Luke 9:28)
- 4 In the garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:39 – 44; Mark 14:34 – 36; Luke 23:46)
- 5 On the cross (Luke 23:34; 46; Matthew 27:46 – 47; Mark 15:34 – 36)

B When He Prayed

- 1 Early in the morning (Mark 1:35)
- 2 All night (Luke 6:12)
- 3 Before eating (John 6:11)
- 4 In the early evening (Matthew 14:23)

II The Purpose of His Prayers

- A He prayed to in order to talk to His Father.
- B He prayed in order to give thanks.
- C He prayed before an important task.

- D He prayed when He was troubled.
- E He prayed in order to travail on behalf of His disciples.

III The Principles of Prayer That Jesus Taught (Matthew 6:1 – 15; Luke 11:1 – 13)

A The Principle of Privacy (Matthew 6:1 – 6)

Most of our praying should be done in private. However, there are times that we will gather together for corporate prayer. We must remember that when we pray together that we are not putting on a show for people.

B The Principle of Purpose (not vain repetition; Matthew 6:7-8)

Jesus does not want us to chant mindlessly. Our prayers should be purposeful. We should have something real to say; and some real needs to ask Him for.

C The Principle of Praise and Worship (Matthew 6:9)

It is an ungrateful people who fail to thank the Lord for what He has already done before they give Him their new list of demands.

- 1 We worship God for who He is.
- 2 We praise God for what He has done.

D The Principle of Petition (Matthew 6:10 & 11)

- 1 Ask for things pertaining to His Kingdom
- 2 Ask for the needs of others
- 3 Ask for your own needs

E The Principle of Profession (Confession – Matthew 6:12)

Confession should be done as soon as a sin is committed, but during your private prayer time it would be wise to confess (and forsake) any unconfessed sin.

F The Principle of Persistence (Luke 11:5 – 13)

Keep asking until God answers your prayer (yes or no); or changes your request.

I am persuaded that we are all more deficient in a spirit of prayer than in any other grace. God loves importunate prayer so that he will not give us much blessing without it. And the reason that He loves such prayer is that He loves us and knows that it is a necessary preparation for our receiving the richest blessings that He is waiting and longing to bestow. (Adoniram Judson_

G The Principle of His Promise (Matthew 21:22; John 14:13 – 14; 15:7; 15:16)

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." (Matthew 21:22)

"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." (John 14:13-14)

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. ... Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." (John 15:7, 16)

Notice that this promise is contingent upon the faith of the person asking; the "abiding" of the person asking; and the will of God.

Conclusion

He hasn't quit praying for us either:

Wherefore he is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. (Hebrews 7:25)

"How the bitter of life is sweetened by prayer! How the feeble are made strong by prayer! Sickness flees before the health of prayer. Doubts, misgivings, and trembling fears retire before prayer. Wisdom, knowledge, holiness, and Heaven are at the command of prayer. Nothing is outside of prayer. It has the power to gain all things in the provision of our Lord Jesus Christ. Paul covered all departments and swept the entire field of human concern, conditions, and happenings by saying, 'In everything by prayer.'" E.M. Bounds

Illustration - Things looked bleak for the children of George Muller's orphanage at Ashley Downs in England. It was time for breakfast, and there was no food. A small girl whose father was a close friend of Muller was visiting in the home. Muller took her hand and said, "Come and see what our Father will do." In the dining room, long tables were set with empty plates and empty mugs. Not only was there no food in the kitchen, but there was no money in the home's account. Muller prayed, "Dear Father, we thank Thee for what Thou art going to give us to eat." Immediately, they heard a knock at the door. When they opened it, there stood the local baker. "Mr. Muller," he said, "I couldn't sleep last night. Somehow I felt you had no bread for breakfast, so I got up at 2 o'clock and baked fresh bread. Here it is." Muller thanked him and gave praise to God. Soon, a second knock was heard. It was the milkman. His cart had broken down in front of the orphanage. He said he would like to give the children the milk so he could empty the cart and repair it.

When asked how much time he spent in prayer, George Muller's reply was, "Hours every day. But I live in the spirit of prayer. I pray as I walk and when I lie down and when I arise. And the answers are always coming."