

JESUS PRAYED

Luke 11:9

Introduction: It is no secret that Christians try to imitate Jesus, to copy His attitude, His mannerisms, everything about Jesus that one can duplicate, it is to be the Christian's way of life. One thing Jesus did a lot was to pray. There is no doubt that Christians need to pray also, so who better to look at and to try to be like than someone who has been successful in prayer and the person who stands out far above everybody else is Jesus. His disciples even asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. Let's join the disciples and take a good look at Jesus and His prayer life.

I. WHERE DID JESUS PRAY?

1. Jesus got alone to pray.
 - Luke 5:16; 6:12; 9:18
 - Jesus withdrew from everybody often to find a place to be alone, so He could pray.
 - To some deserted place, the wilderness, a mountain
 - Jesus wanted to be alone with God, His heavenly Father.
 - Today in our own lifestyle, we are always in a hurry, around others, little time to be alone.
 - God tells us to ***"be still and know that I am God..."***
 - ***"...But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut the door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly..." Matthew 6:6***
 - To get to really know somebody, the best way is to get alone with that person. So if we really want to imitate Jesus in prayer and get to know God, our heavenly Father, we need to get alone with Him.
2. Jesus also prayed with others.
 - Luke 9:8 - Jesus took Peter, James and John apart up on a mountain to pray.
 - ***"...For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them" Matthew 18:20***
 - ***"...if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in Heaven..." Matthew 18:19***
 - In praying with others, we learn from each other.
 - Praying with others creates unity among those praying together.
3. Jesus' example of prayer reveals that one can pray anywhere and everywhere.
 - Jesus prayed on mountains, in fields, while walking along the road, in the temple and Jesus prayed from the cross.
 - No matter how rushed we are, there can still be places to pray - getting dressed, eating, driving to work, during work breaks, at bedtime. No matter how busy one's schedule is, there can still be found time to pray.

II. WHEN DID JESUS PRAY?

1. Jesus got up very early in the morning, even before daylight and prayed.
2. Jesus prayed before He began His ministry.
3. Jesus prayed during His ministry.

4. Jesus prayed after He ministered (Luke 5:15-16; 6:12)
5. Jesus prayed in times of crisis and need. (Luke 22:39-44)
 - Before His crucifixion, in the garden, on the cross
6. Jesus taught that **"...men ought always to pray, and not to faint..." (Luke 18:1)**
7. No matter where we are, what circumstance we are in, realize that God is with you at all times and is interested in you and can help you in all situations.
 - Remember, everywhere and anytime you can pray.

III. WHAT DID JESUS PRAY FOR?

1. Jesus gave an example to His disciples and it is called "The Lord's Prayer."
 - There is the prayer of worship.
 - Praising God and thanking Him.
 - There are personal prayers.
 - One's own private needs and concerns.
 - There are others to be prayed for.
 - Jesus prayed for His disciples individually as well as a group.
2. We are to pray in the Name of Jesus Christ.
 - **"...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 anything in My name, I will do it..." John 14:13-14**
 - To pray in the name of Jesus is to appeal to God through His Son and all that His Son means to Him.

IV. WHY DID JESUS PRAY?

1. When Jesus prayed, things happened.
 - He was transfigured before His disciples.
 - Luke 9:28-29)
 - Prayer is transforming bringing the one praying into the presence of the light of God's glory.
 - As Jesus was praying, He was filled with the Holy Spirit and anointed for His mighty work.
 - Luke 3:21-22
 - **"...If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children; how much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?"**
 - It was at Pentecost when the first Christians were praying that they were filled with the Holy Spirit.
2. Prayer quickens one's soul, it enables the Holy Spirit to work within one's life.
3. Prayer opens the flood gates of divine life upon our empty lives.
4. Prayer moves God's divine omnipotence to our weaknesses.
5. Prayer brings God to people.
6. Through prayer God does the impossible.

CONCLUSION:

1. Christians are to pattern their lives after the Lord Jesus Christ - and Jesus prayed!
2. Prayer is not repeating some memorized quote.
3. Prayer is a person communicating directly with Almighty God through the authority and in the name of God's Son, Jesus Christ.
4. Prayer brings change - into the person praying and into what the person is praying about.
5. Prayer can be done anytime, anywhere, under any circumstance and with anybody.
6. HOW IS YOUR PRAYER LIFE CHRISTIAN? Are you following Jesus' example in prayer?