

The Prayer-life of Jesus Christ

“So He Himself often withdrew into
the wilderness and prayed.”

– Luke 5:16

Teaching through Example

- **Luke 6:40** – “A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.”
- Jesus *always* led by example – John 13:15-17; Heb 4:15; I Pet 2:21-22
- **Luke 11:1-4** – *Jesus* habit/mastery of prayer was the first example; His *teaching* on prayer gives the second example.

“The picture of a praying Jesus like an etching, a sketch in black and white, the fewest possible strokes of the pen, a scratch here, a line there, frequently a single word added by one writer to the narrative of the other, which gradually bring to view the outline of a lone figure with upturned face.”

– S. D. Gordan, *Quiet Talks on Prayer*

Why did Jesus pray?

- Is it true that Jesus' divinity made His prayers unreal?
 - Read **Phil 2:6-8**
- Is it true that Jesus prayed, not out of real need, but *only* as an example to disciples?
 - Read **Hebrews 5:7**

Why did Jesus pray?

- To avoid temptation – Matt 26:41
 - “enter into” means “fall under the control of”
 - Jesus resisted temptation even *before* it ever arrived ***through prayer!***
 - See Mark 6:29-46 with Matt 14:34, John 6:15
- For spiritual strength – Luke 6:12, 9:27-31, 22:39ff
- To bless others – Mark 10:13-16, Luke 23:34
 - *So often Jesus took time to bless those that the world had no time or concern for!*

Why did Jesus pray?

- In thanksgiving – *this made an impression!*
 - Matt 14:19 with John 6:11, 23 (cf. all four gospels)
 - Matt 15:36 w. Mark 8:6-8
 - Matt 26:26 w. Mark 14:23 (cf. all four gospels)
 - Luke 10:22 w. Matt 11:25-26 (see footnotes, and remember Rev 4:11 and Eph 3:10-12)
 - John 11:41-42 remembering | John 5:14-15
 - **Think of all the reasons Christ had to NOT give thanks...**

Think of all the prayers God has answered for you:

“I never prayed sincerely and earnestly for anything but it came; at some time – no matter how distant the day – somehow, in some shape, probably the last I should have devised, it came.”

– Dr. Adoniram Judson

Why did Jesus pray?

- Interceding for His disciples – **John 17**
 - Remember Isa 53:4-6 and Heb 7:25, Rom 8:34
- 1. Prayer concerning His own life, trials**
 - Great trial imminent; prayer for glory (cf. 7:39, 14:7)
 - *If one would intercede for others, what should be his/her first priority?*
 - e.g. I Tim 2:8, 4:12, etc.
 - See Gen 18:22-33; Ex 32:7-14; etc.

Why did Jesus pray?

2. Intercession for the apostles (*et al.*)

- **Protection/deliverance:** more than physical protection! (Remember John 15:18-21, 16:1-4, etc.)
- **Testimony:** see Rom 1:8-9; I Thes 3:9; etc.
- **Unity:** harmony in mind, judgment, word (Eph 4:3,14; I Cor 1:10)
- **Joy:** see John 15:11, 16:20-22; I Pet 1:8-9
- **Sanctification:** i.e. to render pure (I Thes 4:3f; 5:23; II Tim 2:21)
- **Note:** the *unity* of Christ's disciples depends inherently on their *sanctification by the word!*

Why did Jesus pray?

3. Intercession for all believers until the End

- *How did they become believers?*
- **Unity:** *only* by the right message! Cf. Acts 2:41-42
- **Influence:** a sign to the world! Cf. Isa 11:6-10
- **Glory:** a dwelling place in heaven with God!
- **Love:** namely, the love of God! Cf. John 15:9

Final thoughts on intercessory prayers:

- *How do we intercede for one another?*
 - **James 5:14-20; I John 5:16** – In regards to sin, etc.
 - **Eph 6:18** – Persistence, alert to the needs of others
 - **Eph 6:19-20; Col 4:3-4; II Thes 3:1-2** – In regards to the preaching/reception of the gospel
 - **Heb 13:18-21; Eph 1:16-21; Phil 1:4-6; II Thes 1:11-12** – Even on behalf of the whole church
- *Who intercedes for unbelievers in the world?*
 - **I Tim 2:1** – Who is excluded from “all men”?
 - See Rom 10:1; Matt 5:44, 6:10; etc.