

## **The Amazing Prayer Life of Jesus**

**Intro: Jesus did many amazing things in His life on earth. We think of His wonderful sermons, His powerful miracles, His bold admonitions against Israel's elite.**

**But we have to ask ourselves, "What was the source of the motivation and power that Jesus demonstrated in these amazing things?" And I believe we can best answer that by looking at Jesus' prayer life.**

**Have you considered how important prayer was in the life of the one we are trying to follow? In fact, we could say that it is as amazing as anything we see in Jesus' life. This morning I want to encourage you to consider the amazing prayer life of Jesus; and to encourage all of us to pray like Jesus.**

**When we look at Jesus' amazing prayer life we see that:**

**He prayed in order to prepare for a busy day of work.**

*There were times when the Lord must have been incredibly busy. When word went out that he was in a city, throngs of people came to Him with all their sick and their infirm. There were questions to be answered and needs to be met. It would have been enough to weary the spirit of anyone. Jesus, it appears, prepared for the strain and challenge of the day's work by first spending time with God.*

*"And in the early morning, while it was still dark, He arose and went out and departed to a lonely place, and was praying there" (Mk. 1:35)*

*We are never prepared to be a resource of faith and strength to others until God is a source faith and strength to us. Jesus knew that; and we need to learn from that as well. Do you pray each morning as you begin the day like Jesus did?*

**He prayed when making big decisions**

*Often when we are faced with choices that will affect us for life, we think of getting advice from others, reading books and magazines and articles on the internet; we think of reasoning out what is best for us. Let's see what Jesus did.*

*"And it was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. And when day came, He called His disciples to Him; and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles" (Lk. 6:12-13)*

*Is there any doubt that this period of prayer for the Lord was intended to help him make one of the most important decisions he would ever make? The next day he would choose those men to train and to entrust the greatest work on earth, the proclamation of the gospel of His death, burial, and resurrection.*

*If we had made those choices we might have chosen different men, not these. Humanly speaking, they were an unlikely bunch; uneducated fishermen, patriotic freedom-fighters, a traitor (tax-collector), a traitor-to-be, ambitious, impulsive, pessimistic, fallible men. But with the help of God, Jesus chose the right ones.*

*How many of us think to ask God to guide us in making the important decisions of our lives?*

**He prayed when He saw God working in the lives of others.**

*In Luke 10 we see that Jesus had sent the 70 out to preach in the cities of Judah; and the things they accomplished had been amazing. The disciples were exuberant at what God had done through them. They responded with excitement as they expressed what had happened through them.*

*Jesus responded to them with a prayer to God.*

*“At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, and said, “I praise Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that Thou didst hide these things from the wise and intelligent and didst reveal them to babes. Yes, Father, for thus it was well-pleasing in Thy sight.” (Lk. 10:21).*

*Jesus prayed a prayer of thanks that God had found hearts responsive to his word—not the intelligent and powerful, but “the babes,” those who know they need to learn, those who know they lack power. And then He urged the disciples to likewise appreciate all that had been made known to them; and to appreciate the special place that they had in the plan of God.*

*We often proclaim our disappointment in how others may live their lives; but how often do we thank God for His work in the lives of someone we see who is changing, working, and growing? And how often do we thank God for what He is doing in our own lives? For what He has made known to us? What what He has accomplished in us?*

**He prayed when He received the simplest blessing**

*The Lord had a thankful heart; and He taught people to see God’s hand in the simplest blessing.*

**When He took the bread provided by God by the seashore, even though only a lad's lunch, He “gave thanks”.**

*“Jesus therefore took the loaves; and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; likewise also of the fish as much as they wanted” (Jn. 6:11)*

**We follow His example in the Lord’s Supper.**

*“And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” (Lk. 22:19).*

**Jesus’ habits were so predictable that the men on the road of Emmaus were able to recognize him by his actions “in the breaking of the bread”. (Lk. 24:35)**

*The amazing thing about Jesus is that he had almost nothing materially! Have you ever considered how poor he was? And yet, he had a thankful heart. Do we?*

#### **He prayed when He was concerned about one of His disciples**

*As we mentioned earlier, Jesus had personally selected the twelve and had given them “on the job training.” Yet he knew that, in spite of this, they were weak and subject to temptation. He knew they were going to face a crisis like they had never known when the enemy came for Him.*

*“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” (Lk. 22:31-32)*

*One of the best things you could do for another person is to pray that their faith does not fail in their time of temptation. You may see that they are subject to weakness and temptations greater than their strength; and they do not know it. Do you pray for them?*

#### **He prayed when He was confronted with great temptations**

*You remember well the account of Jesus’ feeding the 5000. The impact of that miracle upon the Jews who followed him was astounding. You could almost hear the buzz in the crowd as they compared what Jesus had done with what Moses had done in the wilderness. Who had performed such a deed since his day? Was this the Messiah? Would he do any greater work than Jesus had just done? They were ready to make Him a king by force. We should not underestimate the power of this temptation. Satan was offering him a crown without a cross.*

*“Jesus therefore perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force, to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.” (Jn. 6:15)*

*And who among us does not remember those hours in the garden when he urged the disciples, “watch and pray that you do not enter into temptation”. For him, prayer provided the strength to face the soldiers the disciples ran from.*

*What do you do when you feel tempted? Let’s pray like Jesus did.*

#### **He prayed when He was persecuted by others**

*It would be hard for us to imagine how it felt for the Lord to know that one of his disciples had revealed to the enemy where he would be staying. Or, to see his disciples flee in fear. But think of what it would have been like to suffer the pain of the cross, the meanness and taunting, and ridicule of those who hated him in spite of the great love that He had shown for everyone.*

*The Lord might have justly called down “anathemas” on His persecutors; but instead He prayed for them:*

*“But Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” (Lk. 23:34)*

*And that might be the hardest thing you've ever tried to do—to pray for someone who has hurt you. But that's what Jesus did; and it gave him the power to restrain from angry retaliation and provide a way of forgiveness for them.*

**Conclusion: Are you impressed with amazing prayer life of the Son of God? And how he prayed?**

**If he needed such times of prayer, do we not also need them? Let's pray like Jesus.**