

"THE PRAYER LIFE OF JESUS"

Luke 2:43-52

INTRODUCTION:

What is the most beautiful life ever lived. And what is the secret of that beautiful life. We believe in Jesus - we accept him as our Saviour. Where did he find strength. And where did he get his wisdom to live by. Early in his ministry, he had to face Satan, in the temptations. He did not borrow on divine power to face Satan. He refused to turn stones into bread.

He took the position of an ordinary man. As a perfect man.

And he waited on the provisions of the Father. It was a test of his humanity. And as we look at the secret of this man, we discover something that was important to him. Him prayer life is of great importance to us. Prayer is a great power in his life and was a resource. If we are going to understand his life.

Prayer is a real necessity. Without this spiritual life declines.

Sampson, who was deceived, and Delilah used his secret said, the Philistines are upon thee. And he wished not that the Lord had departed from him.

Christians can change the world as they change and come into this power. And Jesus made the most of prayer.

The Gospel records state that Jesus stressed the fact that he was a praying man. His prayer at the grave of Lazarus he sought to glorify God. He prayed for the crucifiers that they might be forgiven. And this conformed to his teaching that we should pray for our enemies. His prayer of commitment reveals how men ought to pray even in the moment of death.

Therefore a study of prayer must begin with Jesus. There is no doubt that Jesus was known and remembered as a man of prayer. In the Gospels we have recorded at least 21 instances in which Jesus prayed. We have 45 times in which he taught, and 16 times in which he preached. And this gives us an indication that Jesus placed an importance on prayer for himself, and for his Disciples. He asked his Disciples to follow him - (follow me.) We cannot follow anything that he taught unless we pray.

If there is one thing that Jesus taught - it was prayer.

↳ Matt. 6:9 - "Pray ye."

↳ Luke 21:36 - "Pray always."

↳ Matt. 9:39 - "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest. That he would send forth laborers unto his harvest. "

↳ Matt. 5:44 - "Pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you. "

Matt. 6:6 - When thou prayest, enter thou into thy closet. When thou has shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret. And thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward ye openly. "

Matt. 6:9 - After this manner, therefore pray ye - Our Father, which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Matt. 24:20 - But pray ye that your flight be not in winter, neither on the Sabbath Day.

Matt. 26:41 - Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation. The Spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak.

Mark 11:24 - Therefore, I say unto you, what things so ever ye desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them and ye shall have them. And when you stand praying, forgive. If ye have aught against any.

Now Jesus who taught others to pray - prayed himself. Jesus said, I go yonder and pray. Matt. 26:36. John 14:16 - I will pray the Father. John 17:20 - Neither pray I for these alone. Jesus spent much time in prayer in secret. He went away from the multitudes up into the mountains apart to prayer. In Gethsemane, he said to his Disciples, you sit here while I pray. And in the morning, rising up a great deal before day, he went out and departed into a quiet place and there prayed. Mark 1:35.

Jesus prayed in public. He says, I thank ye oh Father, Lord of Heaven and earth.

Because thou has hid these things from the wise and prudent, and has revealed them unto Babes. Matt. 11:25.

// And it came to pass when he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his Disciples said unto him - Lord, teach us to pray. As John also taught his Disciples. Luke 11:1.

Jesus prayed before ~~eating~~ He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass and he took the five loaves and two fishes. And looked up to Heaven, and blessed them, break and gave the loaves to the Disciples, and to the multitudes.

Therefore, he prayed publicly and privately before eating. When he was with His Disciples alone, he broke the bread and gave to his Disciples. And blessed it.

Sometimes Jesus prayed long prayers. (John 17) When he arose, a great while before day. Or he continued all night in prayer. Luke 6:12. Or perhaps he had a short prayer in Matt. 27:46. My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me.

He prayed for his friends. Then there were brought unto him little children. That he should put his hands on them and pray. And the Disciples rebuked them. Matt. 19:13.

Jesus prayed for his enemies. Then said Jesus, forgive them. Luke 23:34.

Jesus prayed for himself. And he went a little farther, and fell upon his face and prayed - "oh my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me."

And Jesus praying for himself - he petitions that the hour was important. The hour had come. He also pleaded his relationship to God. Glorify thy son. And he pleads God's glory - that thy son also may glorify thee. And he pleads a redemptive mission. He says, as thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

Jesus pleads for his followers. And for the holy life. According to the faithfulness of Jesus in prayer, we have one of the greatest examples to be found anywhere.

I want tonight to give you something of a brief study from the Gospel of (St. Luke) On the matter of the prayer life of Jesus. This is a most interesting thing - as I surveyed the Gospel of Luke to find the wonderful truth taught here.

When you think of your own prayer life, how do you pray. Do you have a good basis for prayer. Can you say, Father, hear me. On the basis of a faithful church attendance? On the basis of a soul winning life? On the basis of a love for his book? On the basis of a love for your pastor? On a basis of your honesty? On a basis of your love to see God's work go forward, your truthfulness. Jesus taught men how to pray. Let us now look for a minute at the Gospel of Luke and find some directions.

1- [ Luke 2:51-52 ] And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was subject unto them. But his mother kept all of these things in her heart. Jesus increased in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and man.

49 Now this is a place where we want to begin in Luke. We know that Joseph was a very obedient man who obeyed God. And we know that Mary taught Jesus to pray. We are told that at 12 years of age when they went to Jerusalem, that Jesus was very much interested in the things of the Lord in the temple. And his parents did not miss him. He was have conversations with the priests and the rabbi's. And they looked for him. And finally, they found him. And he said - how is it that ye sought me. V. 49. "Wish thee not that I be about my Father's business." Here he was, in his Father's house about his Father's business. At age 12, he speaks of his Heavenly Father. He must have had great understanding of the (old testament) and the teachings about God. I think he grew up in a home where there was Bible study and prayer. He was rooted like a tree. Some scientists have said that a rye plant has miles of roots. These roots are hidden in the ground. And Jesus was rooted, and hidden in prayer. Jesus prayed in the carpenter shop. He learned to pray in the synagogue. He learned to pray in the home. And I think he spent a great deal of time in the hills of Nazareth in prayer.

Now, what happened to Jesus between the year that he was 18 - or the 18 years - between the (age of 12) and (30). He must have poured over the prophets in the Old Testament. And he was taught how to pray. And this was the thing that he tried to get his Disciples to understand in John 14:10 - you are going to be a greater worker than I am. The fruit of the union with Christ - it is beautifully described in John 15:4-5. The life of the vine, that is Jesus' life. Is found in the life of the branch. And he taught these things. And he taught his Disciples this. Therefore, Jesus knew what this strength and power was because he had grown and increased in

statue and favor with God.

2- Baptism. Luke 3:21-22. One day word came that (John the Baptist) was preaching in the wilderness and great crowds were gathering. And this is the important thing that Jesus felt a spark of fire within him. That he must go and be baptized. John 4-6 was preaching in V. 4-6, words from the prophet Isaiah. "Make straight, the paths of the Lord, Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be brought low. And all flesh shall see the salvation of God." And there came to be baptized multitudes."

21-22 And this was transforming power - and this was the final victory that Jesus found in prayer. Look at V. 21-22, now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also being baptized, and underscore praying. The prayer life of Jesus. (At his baptism he was praying. And here he was praying - the Heavens opened. And the Holy Ghost came down in the shape of a (dove) upon him. And a voice out of Heaven spoke - thou art my beloved son. With whom I am well pleased." This was a (sign) that took place. Jesus had come down from Nazareth to Jordan, and the voice spoke, my son. The (consciousness of the Messianic experience) He was the Messiah. The completion and the understanding of his mission was now taking place at the time of his baptism.

4:1 Now (he needed to be alone with God) And by himself. Luke 4:1, Jesus returned from Jordan and was led by the (spirit into the wilderness) Here he had pointed out to him that he was going to be the suffering servant of Isaiah 53.

For forty days and nights, he spent here in prayer. Every thought that passed

through his mind was one of prayer. In that wilderness experience. In those days,

v. 4 / 8  
Satan came. And Jesus used the sword of the Old Testament. ("It has been written.")

Now Jesus returned into Galilee in great power.

And he visited Nazareth as was his custom, he stood up in the synagogue on the Sabbath day. And he read. They gave him the scroll. Isaiah 61:1-2. Now perhaps Jesus chose this passage of Scripture, to read - because it pointed out that in Luke 4:18-19, what he was to do. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. Because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor. He has sent me to heal the broken hearted. Preach deliverance to the captives. And recovering of sight to the blind. And set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord." And when he had read this, V. 21 - this day, is this Scripture fulfilled in your ear. At his baptism, the Spirit came. And made plain to him that he was to fulfill this prophet.

4:18-19

v. 21 -

v. 29-30 They led him out to the edge of the city that they might cast him head long down. But in V. 30 - it says that he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

v. 31-32

In Capernaum in V. 31 he stopped and he talked - and he talked with great power.

3 -  
v. 42

And when the evening and the sunset had come, he went out to pray. V. 42 - it says that he went into a desert place that he might have quietness in this lonely



place and it was early before day that he was in this desert place.

Sometimes people today say, preacher, we are so busy, We do not have time to pray. But Jesus had a practice of going early, and he was empowered for the next work that he was to do. He and his Father met and of course, his Father loves him because of this.

4  
5:16  
A quiet place Luke 5:16. And he withdrew himself into the wilderness and prayed. You will notice these next few verses that there was a sick man of the palsy brought to him. Almost daily and hourly, things were happening. And multitudes were pressing in upon him. That he hardly had time to even think. Because of his fame, you would have thought that it would have been a hindrance to his prayer life.

Do you know what the greatest hindrance to the prayer life of a preacher? or as a matter of fact, to anyone. It is this - his own ministry. The multitudes that descend upon his life, for his time - that he does not have time to pray. Now, if you wait until you have time to pray - you will never get there. There will be needs. And there will be things that will come in. There will be great frustrations. And this is the thing that happened to Jesus. But the Scripture says, he slipped away to a lonely place and this was his habit. It was Jesus' deliberate purpose to lay hold on prayer. Alone with God.

Prayer is work. It takes the whole focus of the mind, soul, and determination to get into that lonely place and fulfill that habit of prayer.

5-

6:12-13

Choosing workers

Luke 6:12-13.

"

He went out into a mountain to pray and continued all night in prayer to God. When it was day, he chose 12 - and he also named Apostles. All night Jesus spent in prayer. Men passed through his mind, those that he would use. And he made the choice of 12.

What does this say to us that in the choice of church leaders, sometimes we are careless. Jesus spent a whole night. When it came to the opportunity to choose these workers. When we have need of a worker or workers in our church, then people ought to press in at prayer meeting and they ought to pray. For these needed folks.

v. 17

v. 17 - Great crowds came and in a company with his Disciples. They came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And the whole multitude sought to touch him.

This all night of prayer was a path to power. The path of God's power is the path of prayer. And according to faith and prayer, so be it unto you. And there was the healing of bodies, the healing of spirits. And following the sermon on the mount, which was a great challenge to men to be strong. And to pray in that power.

6-

9:16

He bleseed the loaves. Luke 9:16. We read, these verses. He made them

sit down and he took the loaves and the fishes - looking up to Heaven he prayed and blessed them. And break them, and gave them to his Disciples. What a great illustration of prayer and thanksgiving. And 12 baskets of fragments were left over.

v. 17

Following this experience, there was the experience of a big question

V. 18-19  
Who do men say that I am, V. 18-20. Some people said, he was John the Baptist. Other people say, you are one of the prophets. Whom do you say that I am. Peter said, the Christ of God.

This is every man's question. And it all depends on how you answer this question. Did they see he was the Christ. He was alone in prayer. And they ask them - whom say ye? And the answer came back - you are the Christ of God. You are the Saviour since God promised Adam in the Garden of Eden - you are the Saviour.

V. 22 - "The son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected of the elders and the priests. And be raised the third day." He must suffer. If I am to be crucified and to suffer - what is going to happen to you. Jesus said, here is the cross. And you are going to suffer with me. This is a test that you are going to have to endure. But you are going to endure it with confidence and with assurance. Christ did not die in the spirit of defeat. But he died in the spirit of victory.

You know what a fair weather friend. In fowl weather they are gone. And you know the story of George Matherson who engaged to a maid. And he was on his way to becoming blind. He decided to let her out - but he hoped that she would go through with the wedding. She let him go. And he wrote, "oh, love, that will not let me go." Jesus faced his Disciples. They expected him to set up a kingdom, and there to reign and raise up a Jewish kingdom and to enjoy it with them. Their hope of power, and prestige was punctured.

John the Baptist had been beheaded. The crowds tried to make Jesus king but he refused. And many of the Disciples were going away from him. It is not a crown

you are going to get but a cross. Now they never dreamed that they would get that. How many stay with him. And believe that he is the Christ. This tested their loyalty. Not many signed up with a man who was about to be crucified. He wants them to believe that he is the Christ.

2  
v, 28  
[Transfiguration.] V. 28. And it came to pass after eight days - he took Peter, John, and James and he went up into a mountain to pray. And as he prayed - the fashion of his countenance was changed and altared. His raiment was white.

Here is another lesson of Jesus at prayer - on the Mt. of Transfiguration. The radiance of his face. The whiteness of his garment.

I want you to get it. This perhaps was on Mt. Herman. There at the peak was the snow-capped mountain. It was a quiet place. It was in the Gentile country. And on this mountain, he met with them to pray.

As he prayed, he was changed. And change does come as people pray. You remember Moses came down from the mountain. He had to put a veil over his face. He just shown literally with the glory of God.

Moral beauty and the purity of Jesus was shining like a light. There was radiance in his face. Whiteness of his garments.

There was brightness coming from within. This was not an external reflection.

But here was God, who had a perfect man on earth. He had faced every temptation. And everything that God meant for a man to be - Jesus, the perfect man, was now on display.

As he prayed, did you ever think that the best things of life could come into your life as they came into the life of Jesus. How? As he prayed. At his baptism. At his transfiguration.

The question is how are you going to shine. How is the moral beauty shining out of your life as you pray.

Jesus was not looking at some great light to reflect off of his life or his face. Now the longer I live, the more I realize that I need a Christian face. Well, I am working on it. I mean - a Christ-like face. Not the kind that looks like I have lost every friend. But the kind of face that reflects the faith in God and shines in my life. That is exactly what you need. And as he prayed. This ought to be encouragement to you.

Moses and Elijah came down. And there was a revelation of the kingdom. There was a voice of God. Who spoke in that hour.

10:17 The 70 went out - Chapter 10:17. 70 returned again with joy - saying Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. The powerful name of Jesus. Even the

devils were submissive.

8-  
11:1

The Lesson on prayer Luke 11:1. And it came to pass as he was praying at a certain place, one of His Disciples said unto him Lord teach us to pray. John taught his Disciples. And Jesus said when ye pray, our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, as in Heaven - so on earth. Give us this day, our daily bread. Forgive us our sins. For we also forgive everyone that is indebted to us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

How marvelous. Jesus and his teachings - teaching his Disciples how to pray.

9-  
22:17  
v. 19

The Lord's Supper Luke 22:17. When they were gathered - and he took the cup, and he gave thanks. And he took the bread and he gave thanks. Jesus teaching concerning prayer. Marvelous - that Jesus at every turn of his life, took the opportunity to teach and to train his Disciples about prayer.

10-  
22:31-32

Simon 22:31-32. The Lord said to Simon <sup>satan</sup> hath desired you. He wants to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you that your faith fail not. \*1 Jesus Prayed for Him -

11-  
v. 39  
41  
44

Gethsemane Luke 22:39,44. And he came out, and he went to the Mt. of Olives - he and his Disciples. And when he was at the place, he said unto them - pray that ye enter not into temptation. And he had withdrawn them about a stone's cast - and kneeling down and prayed. If thou be willing - remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not thy will but thine be done.

The praying was so earnest - that he prayed more earnestly. And his sweat was as it were - great drops of blood, Falling down to the ground. This is when Jesus was burdened down. And his soul was sorrowful unto death. The agony of drops of blood falling down. He was going to drink the cups of sin. Heb. 5:30, 37.

Jesus was a man of prayer. And Jesus lived his life because of prayer. If

Jesus couldn't live without prayer - what about you? If he did everything in prayer, what ought you to do?

12-  
23:34 Forgiveness Chapter 23:34. Jesus said, Father forgive them for they know

not what they do. Now this is one of the prayers on the cross. It was very brief.

That is an amazing prayer. And it is amazing that he prayed at all. He saved others

- but he could not save himself. And there he was - drinking that bitter cup. And

one of his last prayers on this earth was victory over bitterness. He endured the

hatred in the hearts of people. And maybe that is the way that you ought to conquer

the bitterness and the hatred that you might have towards someone else. And just pray,

Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.

13-  
23:46 Commends Chapter 23:46. With a loud voice he said - Father, into thy hands

I commend my spirit. And having said this, he gave up the ghost.

The last breath of our Lord, was not weak, or faded out. It was a great cry.

It was a loud voice. When he said, into thy hands I commend my spirit.

No man can take up my life. I have the power to take it up and to lay it down. I don't have to let people take my life from me.

If you want to live and die for Christ, then you are going to have to pray. I hope that when I come to die, I'll be able to pray as Jesus prayed. For him, he prayed in victory. It was a response that the fight is over. And he considers a summons from his Father as a triumph. This did not come easy.

Prayer was his last vital breath. If we follow Jesus, we must pray.

There is a line that goes -- I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day. Jesus speaks about prayer. And we believe it. And he taught us that we ought to pray. How did Jesus do it - by prayer.

Are you committed to that kind of a life.

Jesus had one solitary life. He worked in the carpenter shop. But nothing could keep him from the life of prayer.

In conclusion Paul says in Rom. 8:34, that Jesus is still praying. Who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. 7 Jesus is actually now pleading and interceding - and is still praying.



Isn't that marvelous. The Lord Jesus, who lived for 30 years upon this earth serving. 30 years praying. And in one tremendous act, dying. And now for 1900 years, he has spent that time in prayer. Jesus is still praying. What an emphasis on prayer.

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The camel at the close of day, kneels down upon the sandy plain. To have his burden lifted off and rest again.

My soul, thou too shouldest to thy knees. When daylight draweth to a close.  
And let the master lift the load. And grant repose. ||