

A Study of Prayer

Lesson 10: Prayer in the Life of Jesus

- I. Introduction
 - A. Jesus is our perfect example to show the importance and significance of prayer
 - B. Prayer must have been a foundation in His daily life although we don't have record of His prayers during the first 30 years of His life
 - C. He was made like His brethren in all things – Heb. 2:17
 - D. In all points He was tempted like we are – Heb. 4:15
 - E. He did not commit sin – I Peter 2:22-23
 - F. If we can follow the example of Jesus and His devotion to prayer during His life, our lives will be better
- II. Prayer at His Baptism
 - A. Jesus prays following His baptism and the heavens opened, Holy Spirit descends as a dove – Lk. 3:21, 22
 - B. Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness – Mt. 3:15
 - C. His mission was to seek and save the lost – Lk. 19:10 so it would be natural for Him to pray to the Father for help in doing that at the time of His baptism
 - 1. Jesus prayed at the beginning of His ministry
 - 2. He prayed at other undertakings during His ministry
 - 3. He prayed in the final hours leading up to and at His crucifixion
- III. Prayer in Solitude
 - A. Jesus went to a quiet place removed from others to pray—Mk. 1:35; Lk. 5:15,16
 - B. Jesus' life /ministry was very busy with throngs of people following Him—He saw the need to separate Himself from the busy schedule to seek strength (inward renewal) from God
 - C. His time alone in prayer allowed Him to step back, pray for strength and resist temptation that could come with His popularity/fame – Mt. 4:1-11 (note 8-10); 6:13
- IV. Prayer before choosing the Twelve
 - A. Jesus goes to mountain and spends whole night in prayer – Lk. 6:12, 13
 - B. We know the importance of this decision and how Jesus prayed fervently to God before making this decision – How do we approach important decisions in our life?
- V. Prayer on the Mount of Transfiguration
 - A. Jesus goes to mountain with Peter, James and John to pray – Lk. 9:28,29
 - B. During this prayer, while in close communion with God, He is transfigured
 - C. What impact does prayer have on our lives as we draw close to God?
- VI. Prayer of Anguish
 - A. Jesus is troubled and prays as His death is drawing near – Jn. 12:27,28
 - B. Jesus prays in Gethsemane – Mt. 26:36-46; Lk. 22:41-44
- VII. Prayers on the Cross
 - A. Prayer for His Enemies— Lk. 23:34 – Answered in Acts 2
 - B. Prayer of Inquiry—Mt. 27:46 “My God, My God, Why have you forsaken Me?”
 - C. Prayer commending His Spirit to His Father – Lk. 23:46

Questions for thought:

1. What can we learn from Jesus' dedication and continual prayer in His life?
2. How can we apply this to our lives?
3. Why did Jesus go off to be alone when He prayed?
4. What did Jesus do before making important decisions in His life?
5. How did Jesus react to anguish and suffering faced in His life?
6. What do Jesus' prayers from Gethsemane and the cross reveal about His character and His desire to do God's will?