

Introduction

There's much to learn from this passage beyond the Lord's **Model Prayer** or **Pattern For Prayer** that follows it:

For one, we learn that what sparked this unnamed disciples' curiosity to learn about prayer was **the fact that he saw Jesus in prayer.**

We also learn here that John the Baptist also taught his disciples to pray and, as a result, the disciples of Jesus were interested in learning to pray, or at least one of them was!

Isn't it interesting that out of all the disciples only one of them asked Jesus to teach them to pray? It sometimes seems the Church is in a similar situation today regarding prayer. We talk about prayer, we study prayer, we say our prayers, but how many of us actually seek earnestly for God to teach us to pray?

Let's look at some things here regarding prayer:

I. WHY DID JESUS PRAY?

One way we can learn to pray is by looking at the prayer life of Jesus. Although the Gospels don't provide a detailed biography of Christ, they do offer us some glimpses into His prayer life.

First, however, it will be helpful to answer the question, "*Why did Jesus pray?*" This is sometimes puzzling for believers. After all, if Jesus is God, why did Christ need to pray?

Theologically speaking, there are at least three reasons that Jesus prayed:

A. Jesus Prayed As An Example To His Followers.

This is an example we continue to learn from, as we will see later.

B. Jesus Prayed Because Of His Jewish Human Nature.

The Incarnation consists of both Divine and human natures. From the aspect of Christ's human nature, it was perfectly natural for a Jewish believer such as Christ to pray.

C. The Nature Of The Trinity Allows For Communication Between Its Members.

As God the Son, Jesus could pray to God the Father.

II. JESUS AND PRAYER.

A. Jesus Prayed For Others.

Matthew 19:13-14

John 17:9 This underscores the need for intercessory prayer.

B. Jesus Prayed Alone.

Luke 5:16

Psalm 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

Sometimes it's important for us to "be still" before God, but the only way to do this, especially in our hectic culture, is to do so alone with God.

C. Jesus Prayed In Nature.

Luke 6:12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

What better place to commune with our Creator than among the wonders of nature?

Psalm 19:1 – The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

He could have gone to a home, a synagogue or if He were near Jerusalem he could have gone to the temple to pray.

But there were times when Jesus made the decision to pray where He was, which often happened to be in nature.

We are surrounded by so much that is "man made" that sometimes it's difficult for us to remember that this is not our world, but God's world full of wonders for us to enjoy.

(Genesis 1:1, Psalm 24:1)

Psalm 24:1 – The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

D. Jesus Prayed With Others.

Luke 9:28

Jesus prayed alone but He also knew the value of praying with others.

Acts 1:14 underscores the importance of Christians praying with one another:

E. Jesus Prayed Long Prayers And Short Prayers.

The Lord's Prayer is full of wisdom, but it is short enough to be easily memorized and serve as an example of a sprint rather than a marathon prayer.

But Jesus also knew how to dedicate long periods of time to prayer. *Luke 6:12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.*

We, too, need to be able to offer short prayers, as well dedicate long periods of our lives to prayer.

F. Jesus Prayed Regularly.

Throughout the Gospels whenever we read of Jesus and prayer, it comes up regularly and naturally. It was simply a part of His worldview, integrated into every aspect of Christ's life.

Can we say the same about prayer in our life?

G. The Prayers Of Jesus Were Heartfelt.

Jesus did not pray in a cold, distant manner, but in heartfelt supplication, demonstrating empathy and a genuine love for God.

This is demonstrated clearly in John 17, where Jesus prays for Himself, His immediate disciples, as well as for all believers.

H. Jesus Prayed Based On His Knowledge Of God And His Truths.

The prayers of Jesus were based on God's revealed truths and, as such, were in line with a solid Biblical worldview.

Jesus underscored the importance of truth!

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Proper prayer requires us to have a truthful understanding of God and what He has revealed to us through His Word.

I. Jesus Taught Persistence In Prayer.

Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

The parable Jesus shared is not meant to depict a pestering disciple who finally bugs God enough that He chooses to respond, but about persistence in prayer and waiting on God and His timing.

J. Jesus Prayed For The Will Of The Father To Be Done. (Matthew 26:36-44)