

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY

Luke 11:1 (Sermon Outline)

11:1 And it came to pass, that, as 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. KJV

The actions of prayer were not foreign to these disciples. They were apparently aware of the fact the John the Baptist had provided his disciples with some lessons on prayer – and no doubt, these disciples of Jesus were aware of various others so-called spiritual leaders that had provided their followers with strategies of prayer.

But, interestingly enough, Jesus disciples were not interested in inquiring with these other spiritual leaders concerning their methodology of prayer – but these men brought their petition directly to Jesus saying “Lord –teach us to pray.”

If they had questions about fishing techniques, they could have asked the fisherman Peter or his brother Andrew. If they had questions about ways to reduce their taxes, they could have asked Matthew the tax collector.

If they wanted to know how to be doubtful and faithless, they could have asked “Ole Doubting Thomas.” If they had wanted to know how to be a thief and an assassin, they could have just taken the time to speak to Judas.

But none of these were their concerns; but at this particular moment they wanted to know how to pray!

Now, it would stand to reason that if they wanted someone to teach them how to pray, they could have gone to John the Baptist – because the scripture tells us that that John had already taught his disciples how to pray. – But they did go to John because they must have recalled the John method of praying was not strong enough to hold his faith intact. – Because when King Herod in his rage locked John up in prison, John began to question whether Jesus really was the Christ.

They could have asked someone from the religious sects of their day like the Pharisee to teach them to pray – But Jesus told them that these men like to be seen on street corners praying simply so they may be seen and revered by men. So after considering all their options, they brought their needs for prayer instruction directly to Jesus.

It stands to reason, that there must have been something that these disciples had noticed about Jesus' praying methods that had caught their attention.

There must have been something about the manner in which Jesus prayed – or perhaps it was the frequency or the sincerity of his prayers that had caught the attention of these disciples. – or maybe they had simply notice that Jesus' prayers got results!

Whatever their rational for bringing this matter to Jesus might have been – when they had considered all their options – they concluded that there was no one else as proficient in effectual prayer than Jesus! – So they came to Jesus saying “Lord, Teach Us To Pray.”

I believe these disciples made the best choice for a prayer instructor, don't you? In fact, I personally believe that Jesus is still the best prayer instructor there will ever be!

These disciples wanted to pray like Jesus prayed – There's nothing wrong with that- is it? After all, I think if we would learn to pray like Jesus prayed, this world would be a much better place in which to live.

Let's take a moment here, to look at a few examples of some of things that Jesus prayed about:

I. JESUS PRAYED FOR YOUR GUIDANCE

Luke 6:12-13

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. 13 And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles; KJV

The bible tells us that early in the ministry of Jesus he had far more than just twelve disciples. In Luke 10:1 the bible tells us the Jesus sent out seventy – but all seventy didn't make the final cut –

But before Jesus could post the name of his “starters”, he went into prayer and prayed all night – and when day finally came God had given him the name of twelve men out of the seventy to use as his Apostles.

There is a familiar scripture that you might hear people quote often:

Prov 3:5-6

5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. KJV

II. JESUS TAUGHT US TO PRAY FOR OTHERS

Luke 22:31-32

31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: 32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren. KJV

The prayer of modern day Christians are often one-sided, narcissistic, selfish and egocentric. – We pray things like “Lord, bless my home, bless my job, bless my family and last be not least remember poor me – Amen.”

Do you know one of the best ways to get your healing? Pray for somebody else to get healed! Stop feeling sorry for yourself and patting on yourself and get up and go visit the sick, incarcerated, nursing homes – and when you get there don't start telling them about what you've been dealing with - And before you know it, you'll be feeling much better!

Jesus recognized that current condition that Peter was in – but rather than talk about Peter, or gossip about Peter to others, rather than look down on Peter – Jesus decided to pray for Peter’s deliverance! This is the ministry of intercessory prayer!

III. JESUS TAUGHT US TO PRAY THAT HIS FATHER’S WILL BE DONE IN US

Matt 26:39

39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. **KJV**

Seldom, if ever would I knowingly choose something that I know will hurt me, burden me, crush me – or cause me great pain.

I would rather experience that which brings me personal comfort, pleasure and peace – but I’ve come to realize that which is comfortable, pleasurable and peaceful is NOT always God’s will for me!

IV. JESUS TAUGHT US TO PRAY TO THANK GOD FOR WHAT HE IS ABOUT TO DO

John 11:41-43

41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast **heard me.**

42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice,
Lazarus, come forth. KJV

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of
things not seen!”

When you pray, it's like your arms get longer and then nothing is
beyond your reach except that which is outside of God's will!