

Family Night

TALKING TO GOD

JANUARY 24, 2024

Prayer in the life of...

Jesus

Jesus Prioritizes Prayer

- **Luke 5:16, 6:12**

- **Mark 1:35**

Jesus' Relationship with the Father

- **John 5:19, 5:30, 8:28, 15:5**

- **Matthew 4:1-4**

"Father" - Jesus understood His relationship with the Father. It was the basis for His deep communion, open communication, and prayer.

The Gospel clarifies this for us. Father, Brother (**Hebrews 2:17-18**), Closest Friend (**Psalms 139**), Teacher, Coach, Sovereign Lord, All-Wise, Loving, Patient...

- There is nothing we can do to mess up or add to this relationship (**Philippians 3:9**). If you are in sin, it simply means you start the conversation with "I'm sorry,"—you are not cast out, you do not lose access, and God's arms remain open and wide!
- Jesus accomplished full access to God. You have the very righteousness of Jesus. God never turns off the porch light.

“The very things we try to get rid of—our weariness, our distractedness, our messiness—are what get us in the front door! That’s how the gospel works. That’s how prayer works.”¹ —Paul Miller

“Bring your real self to Jesus.”¹ —Paul Miller

Jesus Teaches on Prayer

- **Matthew 6:9-13**

- **Luke 11:5-13 (Matthew 7:7-11)**

- **Luke 18:1-8**

“God can answer prayer, though he bestow **not** the very thing for which we pray. He can sometimes better answer the lawful desires and good end we have in prayer another way. If our end be our own good and happiness, God can perhaps better answer that end in bestowing something else than in the bestowment of that very thing which we ask. And if the main good we aim at in our prayer be attained, our prayer is answered...”² —Jonathan Edwards

Jesus taught on the importance of prayer (**Matthew 21:22, Mark 11:24-2, Matthew 7:7-11, Luke 11:9-13, John 14:13-14, John 15:7,16, John 16:23-24, Matthew 5:44, Luke 6:27-28, Matthew 6:5-15**): including the Lord’s Prayer (**Luke 11:2-4, Matthew 18:19-20**).

Jesus’ Prayers

Matthew 9:35-39

Luke 23:34 - “Father forgive them”

Matthew 27:46 - “My God, My God...”

Luke 23:46 - “Into Your hands...”

Other examples to study: He was continually in a prayer mode. He is shown to pray:

- alone (**Matthew 14:23, Mark 1:35, Luke 9:18, Luke 22:39-41**);
- in public (**John 11:41-42, John 12:27-30**);
- before meals (**Matthew 26:26, Mark 8:6, Luke 24:30, John 6:11**);
- before important decisions (**Luke 6:12-13**);
- before healing (**Mark 7:34-35**);
- after healing (**Luke 5:16**);
- to do the Father's will (**Matthew 26:36-44**); and
- for all His disciples in His day and for all who will believe (**John 17**).

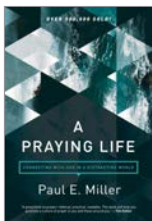
Practical Takeaways

Pause to pray before doing things: eat, go to work, have a conversation, get in the car...

"Rather than set aside daily time for prayer, I pray constantly and spontaneously about everything I encounter on a daily basis. When someone shares something with me, I'll often simply say, 'Let's pray about this right now.'" —Thomas Kinkade

Be an example of prayer in your family. Suggest prayer. Lead in prayer. Simply pray with and for others.

Book Recommendation



A Praying Life
by Paul Miller

Footnotes

1. ***A Praying Life*** by Paul Miller, 2017
2. ***The Most High a Prayer-Hearing God*** by Jonathan Edwards, 1735