

I. The Prayer Life of a Disciple

- A. Relational Interaction - It is not lost on the church that the theme of prayer and perhaps even the definition of prayer is a deep and vast subject that is worthy of multiple messaging series. As profound and as vast as prayer is I do believe that it can be summed up in extremely simple terms: prayer is relational interaction with God. I would like to use this simple definition of prayer for this message this morning. I would also like to urge you to consider using this definition of prayer in your own life and when you see this word in your bible. The prayer life of the believer as described in the scriptures goes far beyond intercession, and into the reality and imagery of abiding in, being one with, and having constant communion with God.
- B. Discipled by Jesus - As has already been pointed out in previous messages in this series. So when it comes to the theme of prayer, our desire is to imitate and learn from His prayer life. Jesus clearly had a prayer life that was uniquely different from the rest of the teachers of His day. (Mat. 6:9-15)

II. The Prayer Life of Jesus

- A. Preincarnate - When considering the relational interaction (Prayer) life of Jesus, I would like us to consider first that He carried His preincarnate prayer life into His incarnate one. Obviously there is much mystery concerning the conversations and interactions within the Trinity, however one thing seems clear concerning that relationship. It was entirely free, intimate, open, and unhindered. With this understanding in place, when we see the prayer life of Jesus as a man, it is the earthly continuation of the expression of His eternal conversation within the trinity. (1 John 1:1-3)
- B. Incarnate Demonstration - God the Son comes on the scene to reveal a human life lived fully alive to God the Father and God the Spirit. The depths of revelation, knowledge, character, power, and love that pours forth from the pages of the Gospels leaves us all longing to walk as He walked. Jesus accredited the qualities of His life to His connection to God through prayer. When His disciples saw His prayer life, and

heard Him speak of it they rightly asked Him to teach them how to pray. (Lk 5:16, 6:12; Mrk. 1:35; Jhn 5:30; 8:28, 11:41-42, 14:10; Mrk 9:29)

1. Availability - Jesus never spoke of His prayer life and subsequent qualities of His life as something unique or only available to His identity as the divine Son. On the contrary, He advocated for, and encouraged His disciples concerning the availability open to them, to have a prayer life like His as a man. He taught them to pray, encouraged them to pray, and interceded for them to have the kind of prayer life that would usher them into the very depths of relationship of God that He enjoyed and had Himself. (John 17:5, 20-26)

C. Substance - There were multiple intentional aspects or ways that Jesus walked out his prayer life on a daily basis. The following list is a summary of the substance of His lifestyle of relational interaction (prayer) with God.

1. Unhindered/Constant - The ongoing relational nature of Jesus with the Father and Spirit is the most prominent aspect of the prayer life of Jesus, and quite possibly the aspect that many believers find the most lacking in their own lives. I believe there are many valid reasons for this but we must move beyond those. Jesus walked out a relational life that we were uniquely created, called to, positioned for, and eternally promised. He abided with the Father and called us to that same abiding reality. (John 14:23, 15:4-5; Gen. 3:8-9; Rev. 21:3-4)
2. Conversational - In general, the prayer life of Jesus was conversationally intimate, a dialogue between a son and father, from one friend to another. Not only did Jesus pray this way, He urged and taught His disciples to do the same. (Mat. 6:9; Lk 12:4; Jhn 15:13)

3. Intercessional - Jesus constantly took His identity and authority as an intercessory priest and made intercession and petition to the Father on behalf of humanity. He taught and commissioned his disciples to do the same. The intercession of Jesus was done with fullness of faith, confidence in being heard and answered, and in partnership with the will of power of the Father.
4. Worshipful - Jesus daily engaged His heart and led his disciples in worship through songs, hymns, declarations, and blessings of the glories of God.
5. Spirit Led - Jesus demonstrated a constant listening ear to the daily leadings and leanings of the Holy Spirit in His prayers, actions, direction, and ministry.
6. Liturgical/Formal - Jesus also showed us a clear intent and appreciation for participation with the formal intercession and liturgical worship and prayer of His day, and encouraged his disciples to continue in them.

D. Discipleship - As stated many times in this message, as disciples of Jesus we are to look at the way He walked and to walk with Him in the same way. We want to be disciplined by him and disciple others in the abiding, constant, and conversational lifestyle of prayer that leads to the fullness of life that God longs for us to have. (Jhn 10:10; 1 Thes. 5:16-18)