

Glen Park Gospel Church
Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes

Rev. Chris Trinham

Studies in Prayer No 7

30th January 2001

Jesus: a Man of Prayer

Scripture Reading: Luke 22.31-46

Key Verse: "... Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps." 1 Peter 2.21

Not only in the matter of suffering, but in all things we are to follow the example of Jesus Christ. Dr. Luke in his Gospel portrays Jesus as the 'Perfect Man'. Read it through and note how Luke shows Jesus to be a man of prayer.

As we read we note seven major ways that Jesus gives us a model for our prayer life.

First, Jesus was anointed for ministry while in a place of prayer. Luke 3.21

The call and anointing of the Lord is essential to effective service. Luke 4.18, Acts 1.8, 10.38. The failure of much work can be traced to the assumption of power that has not been conferred. We have the example of the early Church in the matter of prayer. For example Acts 1.13-14 and 4.23-31. Note how these are linked to the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Second, Jesus prayed after service in public. Luke 5.15-16

He had just healed the leper and others sought his touch, but He sought God in prayer. There is no other source of power in Christian life and ministry. If Jesus as perfect Man needed constant refreshment through prayer, dare we do less. Here is the secret of power and effectiveness in our church and in our families.

Third, Jesus resorted to prayer before important decisions Luke 6.12-13.

Some decisions are inconsequential. Some decisions determine the directions of our lives and ministry. These may determine our future career or where we will live and worship. The commitment of our money or borrowing will determine how much we can give to God's work or whether we are free to participate in other things. Marriage also is an important step. We need the wisdom from above before we make life's commitments. Note Ephesians 6.18 and Philippians 4.6.

Fourth, Jesus prayed for the spiritual enlightenment of others. Luke 9.18-20 Also see Matthew 17.11-13

Paul expands on this theme in 1 Corinthians 2.6-16 tells us this. It is true first of the non-Christian, but it is also true of the Christian, and further tells us that spiritual understanding is progressive over time and still further that it is the work of the Holy Spirit. The key to ministering in Spiritual things is prayer See Ephesians 1.18 and

Colossians 1.9. Make the prayer in Psalm 119.18 the prayer of your life.

Fifth, While He was in prayer He was transfigured. Luke 9.28

This had special significance in the life of the Lord Jesus. However, there is no greater place to be re-formed into His image than in the place of prayer as the Spirit of Christ ministers to us. See 2 Corinthians 3.18. Have you ever noticed Psalm 34.5 "*Look to him, and be radiant*"

Sixth, The prayer life of Jesus became an example for the prayer life of others.

Do we set an example for our family by the regularity and the effectiveness of our prayer? Are we noted in our Church as being always in the prayer meeting. Does the phrase, "Let's pray about it" fall easily from your lips. Do others ask you the question the disciples asked Jesus?

Jesus not only taught the disciples the discipline of prayer, but also gave them considerable help to understand the

Epilogue. As we conclude this study of the place of prayer in the life of Jesus Christ, it is fitting to remember that prayer in the life of Jesus on earth is characteristic of the prayer life of Jesus in Heaven. See Isaiah 53.12, Romans 8.34 and Hebrews 7.25. Today Jesus is our eternal great High priest. He is seated at the right hand of the Majesty on High. He bears on His heart all those who come to God by Him.

meaning and relevance of prayer, both by word and example.

Seventh, It was in prayer that Jesus gave Himself to the will of God. Luke 22.41 &42.

Was there ever a time when Jesus failed to do the will of God. Even before the foundation of the world, the Eternal Son fully embraced the will of God in the plan of redemption. See 1 Peter 1.18, Philippians 2.6-8, John 17.4&5.

Although there was never a time that Jesus was not obedient to the will of the Father, nevertheless, we see Him take the step of renewed commitment to deeper levels of the will of God. There was a climax in the Garden of Gethsemane as He faced the agony of separation from God upon the Cross.

The Christian life is a pilgrimage. There is some parallel between the experience of Jesus as the Son of God made flesh and those who are the sons of God, redeemed, born again of the Spirit and followers of the Lord. See Luke 9.23-26.

Welcome

Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

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