
JESUS ON PRAYER, PART 1

Read Luke 11:1

1) Consider for a few minutes what led up to this disciple's request:

- Along with everyone else, he had been astonished by the power and authority of Jesus' teaching—Luke 4:32
- He saw Jesus heal Simon's mother-in-law, then watched the same evening as He healed every diseased and demonized person who came to Him—Luke 4:38-41
- He watched or participated in a supernatural catch of fish—Luke 5:1-7
- He watched as a leper was cleansed and given a fresh opportunity for a normal life—Luke 12-13
- He saw a paralyzed man take up his bed mat and walk—Luke 5:18-26
- He watched Jesus heal a withered hand in the face of religious opposition—Luke 6:6-10
- He was there when Jesus came down from the mountain and chose 12 apostles, having spent all night in prayer—Luke 6:12-13
- Then watched as multitudes of sick and demon possessed people were healed and delivered, "for power came out from him and healed them all"—Luke 6:17-19
- He was there when Jesus healed the centurion's servant by simply speaking the word from a distance—Luke 7:1-10
- He was there when Jesus stopped a funeral procession and raised the widow's son from the dead—Luke 7:11-15
- He had seen Jesus deal with an outcast woman with incredible poise, sensitivity, wisdom and love—Luke 7:36-50
- He was in the boat when Jesus rebuked a storm and saved the disciples from drowning—Luke 8:22-25
- He watched as Jesus brought complete deliverance to a man long-possessed by a legion of demons—Luke 8:26-36
- He was there when the woman who had suffered from a constant flow of blood for 12 years simply touched His garment and was completely healed—Luke 8:43-48
- He was there when a 12-year-old girl was brought back to life—Luke 8:49-56
- He was one of those sent out by Jesus with power and authority to preach the kingdom and heal the sick—Luke 9:1-6
- When Jesus fed the 5,000 with only five loaves of bread and two fish, he probably made deliveries—Luke 9:10-17
- He watched as Jesus healed the epileptic boy that he and his friends had been unable to help—Luke 9:37-42
- He experienced Jesus' cutting wisdom when he and his friends were arguing about who was the greatest—Luke 9:46-48
- He saw the cool composure in Jesus' face when James and John wanted to call fire down on a Samaritan village—Luke 9:51-56
- He saw Jesus send off the seventy to heal the sick and preach the kingdom, then heard their giddy reports of how God's power had worked through them—Luke 10:1-19
- He was at the home of Mary and Martha when Jesus humorously and lovingly corrected Martha's task-oriented, you-are-what-you-produce view of life—Luke 10:38-42
- ***All the while—perhaps two, or two-and-a-half, years—he had observed a particular habit in Jesus' life:***

Luke 5:16, NCV

...but Jesus often slipped away to be alone so he could pray.

"Lord, teach us to pray." Perhaps that day, as he watched Jesus engrossed in prayer with His Father, the disciple connected the dots: the wisdom, the peace, the poise, the joy, the confidence, the power, the anointing, the miracles, etc., etc., etc., could all be traced back to a single life habit. The very narrative of Jesus' life had provoked him to say, "Lord, teach us to pray." And it is designed to do the same in us.

2) And then there are those outrageous statements...

Matt 7:11, ESV

"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"

Matt 18:18-19, ESV

"Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven."

Mark 11:23-24, ESV

"Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. ²⁴ Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

John 14:12-14, ESV

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."

John 15:7;16, ESV

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.... ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you."

John 16:23b-24, ESV

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."

Without question, these statements are as true as they are outrageous. They are carefully crafted to impart truth *and* to stir up faith that the impossible is made possible through prayer. And they are specially designed to provoke Jesus' followers to say, "Lord, teach us to pray."

3) Closing thoughts about what prayer isn't and what it is

a) *Prayer is not*

- the skill of getting God to give or do

b) *Prayer is*

- being consciously aware of our heavenly Father's presence
- engaging with Him
- enjoying Him as He enjoys us
- worshipping Him
- telling Him what's going on in our heart
- listening to Him
- asking Him questions
- coming to understand His will
- and, when needed, asking Him to invade our circumstances

Lord, teach us to pray