

Jesus Models Prayer

Jesus had so little time for His earthly ministry – only three years – yet He spent so much time praying. He was God’s own Son, completely divine, yet He depended on prayer. His days were so busy that He often prayed either early in the morning before the day or late at night after the day was done. He normally went off by Himself and prayed in private (Mark 1:35; Luke 5:15-16).

He prayed at meals, thanking His Father for the food and blessing it. He prayed at key times, before important decisions, sometimes praying all night:

- Luke 3:21-22 – At his baptism, as the Father and Spirit both testified to who He was, Jesus was praying.
- Luke 4:1-12 – When tempted by Satan in the wilderness, Jesus refused to turn His concerns toward Himself. He kept His focus on the Father.
- Luke 6:12-13 – Jesus prayed through the night before choosing His disciples.
- Matthew 14:22-23 – After feeding the five thousand and before walking on the water, He spent the night on the mountainside praying alone.
- Luke 9:18 – When the time came for Jesus to ask His disciples the key question, “Who do you say I am?”, Jesus had been praying.
- Luke 9:28-36 – Jesus was transfigured while He was praying.

One of Jesus’ most fascinating prayers is at the raising of Lazarus (John 11:41-42). It’s His most amazing miracle, yet His prayer is not a thundering invocation. It is so simple. “Father, we’ve already talked, and You’ve already heard My prayer, like always. I’m only praying now so that everyone knows that You are doing this.” The prayer necessary for the miracle had already taken place privately between Jesus and His Father. Then at Jesus’ command, a man who had been dead for four days walked out of the tomb.

Most of Jesus’ recorded prayers take place the week of His death. He prayed for His disciples, knowing He was about to leave them. When overwhelmed by grief, He prayed. He asked that if possible, the horrible death He was facing be taken from Him. Yet in the end, He humbly yielded to His Father’s will. As He was dying on the cross, Jesus prayed not for Himself, but for those around Him. His concern was God’s will and God’s glory, not His own comfort.

For Jesus, prayer didn’t seem to be a duty or a burden. It was refreshing. It wasn’t a drain on His time and energy. It was rejuvenating. He didn’t keep prayer in the first-aid kit for emergencies only. Prayer was the breath of life. It was His connection with the Father He loved so dearly, the Father with whom He wanted constant fellowship. Jesus was drawn to prayer, not driven to it.

That’s the kind of prayer life I want.

Hymn: [Teach Us to Pray](#)