

WHAT MATTERS MOST #6 PRAY LIKE JESUS

John 17

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I Praying for Himself (vv. 1-5)

Jesus uses the word “Father” (“Holy Father”, “Righteous Father”)
Perichoresis – the mutual indwelling of members of the Trinity.
Emotionally, Spiritually, Physically, Mentally

II Praying for Disciples (vv 6-19)

Jesus cares deeply for his disciples – eleven remain at this point.
In the same way He offered Himself to God the Father, so He now offers His disciples to His Father.
He prays for their:

- Unity “that they may be one, even as we are one” (vs 11)
- Protection “I have guarded them...not one lost” (vs 12), “keep them from the evil one” (vs 15)
- Joy “that may have joy fulfilled” (vs 13)
- Sanctification “sanctify them in truth...your word is truth” (vs 17,19)
- Mission “as you sent me...so I have sent them into the world” (vs 18)

III Praying for Others (vv 20-26)

Jesus prays for his disciples disciples!
Unity “that they may become perfectly one” (vs 23)
Love “that the love with which you have loved me may be in them” (vs 26)

Prayer Prompts:

I Requests –

The simple prayer for our needs and the needs of others.
“ask and it shall be given to you” (Mt 7:7-11; 21:22; James 4:2)

Reasons that the Lord may not give us what we need:

- Wrong motives “because you ask wrongly” (James 4:3)
- Unconfessed sin “your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear” (Is 59:1-2)
- We allow idols in our lives “taken idols into their hearts...should I indeed let myself be consulted by them?” (Ezek 14:3)
- We selfishly ignore the needs of others “whoever closes his ears to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered” (Prov 21:13)
- We don’t remain in God “if you abide in me...ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you.” (John 15:7)
- We don’t honor our spouses “live with your wives in an understanding way...showing honor to the woman...so that your prayers may not be hindered” (I Peter 3:7)

II Intercession

We move from simply making requests to powerful intercession for justice, for healing, for protection, for grace and mercy:

- For our loved ones “I do not ask for these only but...for those who will believe...” (John 17:20-21)
- For our enemies “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matt 5:44)

For those in authority “I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions...” (I Tim 2:1-2)

For ministry leaders “Brothers, pray for us” (I Thess 5:25)

For those that are sick “is anyone among you sick? Call the elders and let them pray over him” (James 5:14-15)

III Worship

Prayer in its purest form and highest calling is thanking and praising God for all He is and all that He has done and all everything about Him that inspires awe.

Shout for joy!

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth with joyous song and sing praises! ... make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord! (Ps 98:4-6)

Use music to worship him in your prayer time!

“Praise him with trumpet sound, praise him with lute and harp!

Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! (Ps 150:3-6)

Worship God alone but also, and maybe especially, in community!

“the whole assembly worshiped...when the offering was finished, the king and all who were present with him bowed themselves and worshiped.” (2 Chron 29:28)

“In the midst of the congregation I will praise you...” (Ps 22:22)

The point is this...become like clay in the potter’s hands! Isaiah 64:8;

For Further Study:

Great mini books on prayer:

- Charles Spurgeon’s *12 Sermons on Prayer*
- Bruce Wilkinson’s *The Prayer of Jabez*
- E. M. Bounds’ *Power Through Prayer, The Essentials of Prayer*
- A. W. Tozer’s *The Pursuit of God, Knowledge of the Holy*
- Tim Keller’s *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*
- Philip Yancey’s *Prayer: Does it Make Any Difference?*
- Max Lucado’s *Pocket Prayers, Before Amen*

We often pray within ourselves rather than without. How big are your prayers and do your prayers reflect you or God? Jeremiah 33:3

Prayer requires effort; it is a process; an art form. Jesus prayed constantly. Why do we believe our quick prayers are all we can afford? John 17; Mk 1:29-35

Learn to pray in all situations – one of my favorite is David’s “prayer in a cave” –

Ps 142. Study I Samuel 22:1 and ask yourself, “If David had prayed as hard in his palace as he did in his cave would he have had such problems?” How does our prayer life reflect our circumstances?

Discussion:

We don’t often think of our physical posture when praying. Many believe that our body position helps our hearts and minds with a proper attitude in prayer. How does this help you? (e.g. kneeling, prostrate, head up, hands lifted.)

Where do we pray? At home, in nature, at church, in traffic, at work, during sports practice or while at school. We can pray anywhere. Where’s the best place for your prayer time?

To “abide” in Christ and worship Him requires time. There is no substitute for time when it comes to prayer. When do you pray? In the morning, evening, before bed, during study hall. Does the time of day make a difference for you when you pray?