

Prayer Is Precious

Text: John 11:41-42

INTRODUCTION:

1. Jesus thanked God for hearing His prayers.
2. Prayer was precious to the sinless Son of God.
3. We must learn to view it the same way...

I. PRAYER IN THE LIFE OF JESUS

- A. At His baptism (Luke 3:21-22)
- B. Before sunrise (Mark 1:35)
- C. During the day (Luke 5:15-16)
- D. At the close of day (Matthew 14:22-23)
- E. All night (Luke 6:12-13)
- F. With His disciples (Luke 9:18)
- G. At His transfiguration (Luke 9:28-29)
- H. At times of success (Luke 10:17-21)
- I. At times of sorrow (John 11:41-42)
- J. At times of suffering (John 12:27-28)
- K. For His disciples (Luke 22:31-32)
- L. Before His betrayal (John 17)
- M. In Gethsemane (Luke 22:39-42)
- N. On the cross (Luke 23:34, 46)

II. PRAYER IN THE TEACHING OF JESUS

- A. Ask, seek, and knock (Matthew 7:7-11).
 1. The use of each word is intensive.
 2. One must continue to ask, seek, and knock.
 3. God responds as a Father to His children.
- B. Pray without fainting (Luke 18:1-8).
 1. We are always to pray without fainting.
 2. We are to pray always with faith.
 3. Psalm 55:16-17; 86:3; Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- C. Continue instant in prayer (Romans 12:12).
 1. We are to give constant attention to prayer.
 2. We are to be devoted to and constantly diligent toward prayer.
 3. Acts 2:42; Matthew 15:22-28
- D. What is my excuse for not praying?

CONCLUSION:

1. Do I view prayer as something precious – a gift from God?
2. Do I recognize the value and power of prayer?
3. What change will I make to give more time to prayer?

Practical Prayer

Exercises

Prayer Is Partial

1. Read Philippians 4:6-7. What will happen if I make my requests known to God but do not express gratitude?
2. Read Genesis 32:7-12. What did Jacob do along with his prayer to God?
3. Read Psalm 51. As he prayed for forgiveness of his sins, what did David promise to do when God answered his prayer?
4. Before you pray today, make a list of three things for which you are thankful. Then, make a list of three things you can do to honor God when He answers your prayers. Note how this affects the way you pray.
5. Read Acts 10:1-6. God answered the prayer of Cornelius by sending him the Gospel (through the preaching of Peter). Since God communicates through His Word, what should I do to find and understand God's answer to my prayers?
6. If I expect God to respond to my prayers, I must respond to His Word. Make a list of areas in which you could improve your obedience to God. Do you think these changes will improve your prayer life?