

Prayer Our Privilege
Matthew 6:5-13; 26:36-46
The Laurel Center
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Main idea: Prayer is our lifeline in communicating with God.

Introduction

Prayer is our privilege in coming to God on a regular basis. Prayer is not just the discipline of believers in Christ but in most religions worldwide. The exception is that in Christianity prayer actually works between us and a God who can communicate back. In other religions prayer seems to be an inward focus on the person rather than a dialogue between God and us.

Jesus teaches us on prayer so that we can be more effective in our communications with God. He not only teaches us about prayer that is also our example in prayer. He also teaches us how to request the things that God is ready and willing to do. Jesus gives us hope on how to talk to God in a genuine and powerful way. Let's take a look at what Jesus teaches us so that we can become better at connecting with God regularly and honestly.

Matthew 6:5–13

5 “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. **6** But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. **7** “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. **8** Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. **9** Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. **10** Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. **11** Give us this day our daily bread, **12** and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. **13** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

- I.** Jesus taught us how to pray.
 - A Don't pray to impress people.
 - B Don't pray to impress God.
 - C Prayed to God for all your needs.

Matthew 26:36–46

36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” **37** And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. **38** Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful,

even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” **39** And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” **40** And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? **41** Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” **42** Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” **43** And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. **44** So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. **45** Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. **46** Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

II. Jesus is our example in prayer.

A Prayer is about intimacy with God.

B Prayer is about partnering with God’s plan.

Matthew 5:44

44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Matthew 9:38

38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

III. Jesus gave us prayer requests.

A Pray for your enemies.

B Pray for more evangelists.

Conclusion

We have learned so much from Jesus’ teaching and example on prayer. Now he must put it to use. This is not just about enhanced techniques to reach God but also about how to interact prayer to see God move in our lives, churches and communities. This is about sin God’s hand move in our worlds and seeing real results. Let’s use prayer to reach the ears and hands of the King of the universe and to see our world change into the kingdom of God.

Prayer in Matthew

Teaching on Prayer

- The Model Prayer – Matthew 6:5-13
- Whatever You Ask in Prayer Will Be Given – Matthew 21:22

Jesus As the Example of Prayer

- Jesus Prayed in Gethsemane – Matthew 26:36-46
- Jesus Prayed in Solitude – Matthew 14:23 Context: Luke 6:12; 9:28; Mark 13:5; Luke 5:16
- Jesus Prayed for Children – Matthew 19:13 Context: 13-15

Specific Prayer Requests

- Pray for Enemies – Matthew 5:44 Context: 43-48
- Pray for Laborers in the Harvest – Matthew 9:38 Context: 35-38