



September 2007 Upcoming Events

Beginning Sunday
September 23rd :

Tune into KFKA 1310 AM
at 7:30 a.m. MST for
broadcasts of Life
More Abundant
Christian Church
Services and
programming!

How Jesus Taught His Disciples to Pray



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This month has been a busy one for all concerned. Children are returning to school, changes in everyday activities are upon us. When life gets this busy, it is especially important to pray for guidance and strength. I have asked my wife, Paleri, to share an excerpt from some research she has written about prayer. She has been an intercessor in prayer for my family, many others, and me for the thirty-four years that I have had the pleasure of knowing her. Additionally, she has been my prayer partner in life for the entire thirty-two years of our marriage. I hope that this selection from her

research of how Christ Jesus taught His disciples to pray during His earthly ministry, before his crucifixion, will bless you and induce you to engage in further study as it did me.

The beauty of Jesus' time in the earth is that He was here to fulfill, bodily, the Law and the Prophet's edicts as well as to introduce the Kingdom of God to those needing to be reconciled (Rom 8:30-31). John the Baptist throughout his ministry spoke of the One who would come after him yet who was before him. John the Baptist had the privilege and the divine call to identify Jesus as the Lamb of God. He made it clearer to his disciples when he stated the purpose of the Lamb of God, that He takes away the sin of the world.

Joh 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (ESV)*

*"God smiles when we LAF
– Love Accept Forgive
unconditionally."*



Jesus, was the Lamb of God, Son of God, and God with us (Emanuel), tabernacling with man. Imagine, this same Jesus was the physical fulfillment of the portable tabernacle that was carried by the Israelites for worship after their exodus from Egypt . The tabernacle represented God being in their midst. When Jesus, the Word, was made flesh (John 1:14), He was able to walk among His chosen people and physically teach, relate, and prepare His bride, the church. Therefore, the spoken words, and the physical actions of Christ while here in a body of flesh, both fulfilled prophecy from the past and was also prophetic in purpose towards the future of the disciples and those who would believe in Him through the disciple's teachings. Interestingly, He stated this fact clearly in one of His last prayers emphasizing the unity he desired for all believers:

Joh 17:20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,

Joh 17:21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

Before Jesus prayed the above prayer, He prayed often and stayed in an attitude of prayer. His closest disciples must have noticed His prayer life for he stated that He only did and said what His Father told Him and the disciples heard Him say this to them and others while observing the power of His deeds.

It was customary in earlier times for religious teachers or rabbis to have their apprentices very close to them for long periods. It is notable that the disciples realized that the way Jesus prayed was different and much more powerful or impactful than the prayer results of others they had seen. Jesus performed miracles, and spoke like no other Jewish prophet, priest, Pharisee, scribe, or religious leader of their day. These disciples knew of

John the Baptist, who had prepared the way for this great teacher, Jesus. They witnessed or knew that John spoke words that were revolutionary in authority and power during his lifetime. Yet, John pointed them to Jesus. As they spent time with Jesus, they perceived that Jesus operated in the earth with an even more powerful authority and presence than John. Their perceptions were accurate and validated the purpose of John the Baptist who was born to prepare a people for the arrival of the Word of Life, that is, the man called Jesus. Thus the question posed by Jesus' disciples, "teach us to pray like John taught his disciples."

Luk 11:1 Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

Jesus' answer is recorded in Matthew's gospel as well as Luke's gospel. For the purpose of clarity, similar passages from both gospels are presented together.

- **Luk 11:2** And he said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.
- **Mat 6:9** Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
- **Mat 6:10** Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

The Jews prayed a similar prayer before this one was given by Jesus. It is the Jewish Qaddish, the prayer praising God, which is spoken at the conclusion of each section of the Jewish service. They addressed GOD in a fashion that was less personal. God was usually addressed by the way He was known by them or by the way He related to them. God's name was and is holy, secret, and rightfully revered but was not fully revealed. In the old covenant, God was often known by His attributes at a given time or event. Some examples of how God was named then include Jehovah/Yahweh (the self-existent one: I AM),

Jehovah-jireh (the Lord will provide), Jehovah-rapha (the Lord who heals), Jehovah-nissi (the Lord our banner), and Jehovah-Shalom (the Lord our peace) to name a few.

Nevertheless, Jesus was clear in His response to the disciples' question. First Jesus tells them to both claim and address God as their Father. What a concept! They were formerly called the Children of Abraham, Children of Isaac, Children of Israel, etc. All of these descriptors are related to flesh and blood humans. Now Jesus taught them to speak out to the invisible God as individuals, personally. By doing this, Jesus is beginning the reconciliation process by having them address GOD as their Father. This is more intimate than how He was addressed in times past. There is, however, a real reverence to be observed by the petitioner because the worshipper is instructed to state and declare the holiness and reverence of God's name.

Additionally, the worshipper acknowledges the kingship, kingdom, and divine will of their Father and Lord in both heaven and earth. How powerful and revolutionary! He is preparing them to touch and to approach God their King as their Father! Furthermore, Jesus teaches the disciples to declare and decree how they, indeed, BELONG in the Father's Kingdom. As God's children, they agree with His will to be done in heaven and earth.

- **Luk 11:3** Give us each day our daily bread,
- **Mat 6:11** Give us this day our daily bread,

One of God's names is I AM, this means that He is acting in the Present as He is a now God. The phrase in Luke asks God to provide for them daily, reminiscent of the manna provided by God to their ancestors many years earlier in the wilderness with the Prophet Moses. The phrase in Matthew has a similar meaning only it gives the idea that God wants them to live

and trust Him fully, on a daily basis. When individuals focus on fulfilling the will of God for each day, there is a strong trust that empowers the spirit. It is accompanied by the peace of God, or His rest, and a release from anxiety.

- **Luk 11:4** and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation."
- **Mat 6:12** and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
- **Mat 6:13** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
- **Mat 6:14** For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,

Before Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from death, everyone was under the laws of Moses. Jesus, the Son of God and the Son of Man, fulfilled all of the laws of Moses in all He said and did from His divine birth to His life-giving death. Therefore, the conditional statements in the prayer (Mat 6:12 "and forgive us our debts, AS we also have forgiven our debtors" and Mat 6:14 "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you") are not relevant for those who believe on Jesus since His ascension. We know that under the new covenant, Jesus did a finished work. We love others because He first loved us. As believers, we know that our debts of sin are removed, remitted, or taken away by the finished work of Christ Jesus (Acts 13:39). The deep spiritual reaction of the believer as a new creation is to love others as ourselves through the Holy Spirit we received by our faith in Jesus and His name (Rom 5:1-5). Although it is essential that one comes to God with clean hands, today, we can come boldly to the throne of grace and communicate with our Father (Heb 4:14-16). Belief in the finished work of Christ pays our sin debt in full. This also prepares and cleanses our hearts and minds so we are comfortable when we relate to our Father (Heb 10:6).

Bottom line, Jesus used the recorded method of prayer found in both Matthew and Luke to begin a thorough teaching of how believers are to relate to their God. Some scholars call this prayer the Disciple's Prayer instead of the Lord's Prayer since the Lord told the disciples this is how they should pray. Jesus used a series of parables and examples repeatedly to help them to gain a greater understanding about how to speak to their Father in prayer. He asked them to join Him in prayer at times when He prayed and sent them out to use the teachings while sharing the good news of the Kingdom of God (Luke 10). Luke records the disciples asking the question about how to pray after they were sent out by twos to share the good news of the Kingdom of God. Perhaps the mission assignment that they were given made them realize the need for serious teachings concerning prayer.

The disciples probably prayed this kind of prayer while they were praying in the upper room as recorded in the book of Acts. He taught them much more about prayer and the attitude necessary for their hearts when praying before he went to the cross to remit or remove our sins and transgressions. These

and other teachings were definitely put into practice when they gathered in the upper room in the first chapter of Acts. The diligent preparation that the Lord Jesus gave His disciples before He ascended to heaven was critical to their gathering and focus while they were waiting in Jerusalem. These teachings are all reflected in the behavior of most of these same disciples in the Apostle Luke's account throughout the book of Acts.

Jesus taught His disciples that God wants us to relate to him the way He originally intended, as His children. It is my hope that you will exercise freely the privilege and the blessing we have to pray, know, and relate to the Almighty God, our Father, in the name of Jesus.

May God Bless You Richly,

Dr. Paleri Mann

*Posted scriptures are from the [English Standard Version \(ESV\)](#) of the Bible.

