

Pray Like Jesus

Today's Message: "The Lord's Prayer"

Message Study Guide

Introduction

After hearing Jesus pray over a period of several months, the disciples came to Jesus one day according to Luke 11:1-4 and said, "Lord, teach us to pray also". Jesus answered their request by teaching them the prayer commonly called "The Lord's Prayer". The more proper name of this prayer would be, "The Model Prayer".

This "Model Prayer" is found in only two places in the Bible. It was first given in the middle of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6:5-14 when the multitudes had gathered to hear Jesus speak. The second time it was given was in Luke 11:1-4 several months later. The only people present at this time were His own disciples.

The "Lord's Prayer" or "Model Prayer" is actually a very basic prayer. Its purpose is to serve as a model of how all of us should pray on a daily basis. It serves as a guide or road map of how and why we are to pray. Christians have memorized it from their childhood days. It is found everywhere in church life. It is literally a prayer that is loved and cherished by Christians everywhere.

Although many of us memorized the prayer as a child as a set formula for prayer, it was never intended to just be repeated mechanically without any thought. Its main purpose is to awaken us and to stimulate our faith and prayer life and to make us aware of our daily need of having "communion" and "communication" with our God.

The most amazing thing about this prayer is that we are immediately invited by Jesus Himself to approach God, the creator of heaven and earth boldly as individuals. What a message! Jesus actually invites us to "draw near" to God who is beyond our understanding and comprehension. He even allows us to call Him "Our Father".

Discussion Points

"The Lord's Prayer" or "Model Prayer" of Jesus serves as the best starting point for learning how to pray because they are the very words of Jesus and they were given as a direct result of the disciples asking Him to teach them how to pray. We should learn how to pray by constantly reading and studying this prayer and using it as the foundation for all of our prayers.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to you personally to be able to refer to God as "Your Father"?
2. How can you personally "Hallow God's Name" on a daily basis? (See Psalm 100; Psalm 93; Psalm 95:1-7; and Psalm 105)
3. Which one of the following do you personally find easier - praising God or praying to God? Why do you think this is true?
4. How long do you think you could pray without repeating yourself or asking God for something?

Think About It

The profound yet simple depth of this prayer should encourage all of us to use some part of it on a daily basis. The more you read it and study it, the deeper your prayer life will become.

Do Something About It!

For some strange reason, many Christians are spiritually lazy. We know what we should do, but we don't do it. To be like Jesus means that we must pray like Jesus. To pray like Jesus means that we will pray to God out of a sense of delight and joy, not out of a sense of duty or obligation.

Be Willing To Change

"And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues, that they may be seen of men..." (Matthew 6:5)