

## LISTENING TO JESUS ABOUT PRAYING

Dear friends, this study is for those who are really concerned about pleasing Jesus and our heavenly Father, who want to learn what Jesus tells us about how we should pray. As you know we are told a lot about prayer throughout the whole Bible. But when we are so enthused with our prayers we may overlook some very important examples and instructions as to how it is required for us to pray the way we should, or should not. We all want to be heard and get our prayers answered. But do you ever wonder if your prayers are going up any farther than the top of your head? Believe it or not there are a lot of instructions in the New Testament as to how to pray. I know it is hard to find time to pray, but if we are not doing it right it may not only be a waste of time but, we may be better off studying the Word instead.

Shall we go through a few scriptures and see what Jesus reveals to us about prayer.

Mt 6:5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

Mt 6:6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

Mt 6:7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

Note: When we pray are we more concerned about how we sound to others, or how pretty the words are, or if it is heard or seen (if we write it) by the public? Do you intentionally display and share what you call a prayer for others to view? I doubt that many of us think Jesus meant that we recite "The Lords's Prayer", but do we teach our little ones to say rhyiming prayers's?

Mt 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Mt 9:38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Note: Jesus wants us to ask and be concerned for things that benefit others when we pray.

Mt 14:23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

Note: As an example, Jesus very often went to a place away from others to spend time in prayer, alone. Jesus is even angry when we pray as the Pharisees did for attention and approval of others.

Mt 23:14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

Mt 26:36 Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.

Mt 26:39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Mt 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Mt 26:42 He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

Mr 1:35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

Mr 6:46 And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.

Mr 9:29 And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

Mr 11:25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Note. Prayer to the Father requires a forgiving attitude to get his attention..

Mr 12:40 Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation.

Note: Our prayers should not be displayed before the world, we are not praying to them, but must be sent up humbly to our Creator, away from the public. Jesus set us an example by praying in secret.

Mr 14:35 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

Mr 14:38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.

Mr 14:39 And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the same words.

Lu 1:13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

Lu 2:37 And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

Lu 3:21 Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,

Lu 5:16 And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.

Lu 6:12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Lu 6:28 Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.

Lu 9:18 And it came to pass, as he was alone praying, his disciples were with him: and he asked them, saying, Whom say the people that I am?

Lu 9:28 And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray.

Note: Even though his disciples went with him, Jesus went farther away to pray alone while they slept.

Lu 9:29 And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening.

Lu 10:2 Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

Lu 11:1 And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

Lu 11:2 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

Lu 18:10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

Lu 18:11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

Note: Yes, I do believe the Pharisee. No doubt he was a good man, but he should have had a better understanding as to what attitude our Father requires of us when we talk to Him.

Lu 20:47 Which devour widows' houses, and for a shew make long prayers: the same shall receive greater damnation.

Note: Like a lot of people who require their members to pay tithes now, not because God requires it, but because they refuse to study the Bible to discover tithing was for a purpose that no longer exists.

Lu 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Note: Putting pictures, (false images) and long flowery prayers on public display is not going to please Jesus Christ or our heavenly Father when it is directly against His example and instructions.. It may make us feel good, but does it make God happy? The Father makes the rules, not us. He wants privacy so we can pour out our hearts to him. May you be blessed when you pray. I know I may have ruffled a few feathers, but it is all done in nothing but love. Our sins, disobedience to God's instructions, will separate us from God, so our prayers will NOT be answered.