



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## Jesus' Framework for Prayer - 1

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**In the Gospel According to Luke** (AD 60-61), Luke, a Gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities sharing scripture, teaching, forgiving sin, physically healing people of demons and disease, and raising the dead. Jesus began to challenge the religious rituals of the day and most importantly preach the Kingdom of God. Jesus is over half way through His 3 year ministry when He sends His select 12 common men to heal and preach. Jesus' impact became known to the common and to the royalty. God has provided a rare glimpse of the kingdom of God through Jesus' transfiguration on the mountain to a select three apostles. Jesus now sets his sights toward Jerusalem, makes it very clear the price followers will pay to follow Him and sends seventy out to heal, preach and warn. After returning and reporting to Jesus, Jesus rejoices. His disciples now ask Jesus to teach them to pray.

*"It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples." And He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.'"* (Luke 11:1-4 NASB, Mt. 6:9-13)

**Jesus had a custom and a priority for prayer.** Jesus prayed regularly and often. Jesus prayed at His baptism, *"Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened,"* (3:21). Jesus prayed in choosing the twelve, *"It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God."*(6:12). Jesus prayed at His Transfiguration, *"Some eight days after these sayings, He took along Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray."* (9:28).

Jesus prayed prior to His arrest, *"And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and began to pray, saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done."* (22:41-42). Jesus prayed on the cross, *"And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT."* Having said this, He breathed His last." (23:46). Luke records that Jesus prayed at other times, *"But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray."* (5:16) and *"And it happened that while He was praying alone, the disciples were with Him, and He questioned them, saying, "Who do the people say that I am?"*(9:18). The disciples took notice that prayer was important in Jesus' life.

**Jesus prayed differently.** Many times the rabbis composed and taught prayers to their people to recite thoughtlessly and repeatedly. Contrary to the prayers that filled the local synagogues, Jesus prayers were private and specific with an audience of One, God the Father; *"When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you."* (Mt: 6:5). Jesus sought the will of the Father in His prayers. The disciple asked Jesus to teach them, just as John (The Baptist) had taught his disciples.

**The disciples hungered for a prayer life like Jesus.** The disciple loved Jesus and understood that His prayer life was more than just words. Jesus prayer life was a constant relationship with the Father. Jesus loved to pray and the disciples wanted that kind of love and prayer life.

### For Your Consideration:

- Is prayer a priority in your life?
- When you pray, do you go *"into your inner room, close the door and pray to the Father..."*?
- Do you seek a prayer life like Jesus?

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## BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44