



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Jesus' Framework for Prayer - 2

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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. 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)

The disciples hungered for a prayer life like Jesus. The disciples 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. Jesus loved the constant relationship with the Father and the disciples wanted that kind of love and prayer life.

How did Jesus say not to pray? In Matthew Jesus said to *"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).

Did Jesus say physically, locationally, and timely or how, where and when to pray? In the passages Jesus does not share that you need to be seated, kneeling, standing, face up, face down, eyes open, eyes shut, hands up, hands down or any other physical posture. Jesus prayed alone and with His disciples. Jesus prayed in the morning, in the evenings and on the Cross. Jesus had constant communion with the Father. Jesus communed at all times about all things with the Father. Similarly, Paul declares that the daily armor of God for Christians includes continual prayer, *"With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints..."* (Eph 6: 18) Jesus was concerned about the condition and motives of their heart and the location of their spiritual minds. Jesus prayed in His inner room, shut out all distractions and opened His heart and mind to the Father. His Father is our Father.

"Father, hallowed be Your name." Jesus first describes the nature of God the Father. God is 'our' (Mt 6:9) Father and He is Holy. Addressing God as Father was foreign the people of that day and thought to be too personal. Jesus again breaks the mold and teaches His disciple to address God as Father (*Abba – Father, a warm close intimate family relationship reference*). Jesus also instructs His disciples regarding the primary nature of God the Father, His name is Holy and He is Holy. Jesus first conveys that we are part of God's family and we have the privilege and honor to call Him Father. God is sinless and most importantly Holy. When the name of God is honored, God is honored.

For Your Consideration:

- Are you cultivating a relationship with God your Father through prayer?
- Do you have no appetite for God or do you hunger to commune with Him?
- Have you pondered God's holy name and His nature of Holiness?

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