

## The Prayer-Life of Christ

**"He continued in prayer"**

### **I. The Posture of His Prayer**

**While bodily posture is secondary to the attitude of the soul, it is instructive to note that at times Jesus prayed:**

- A. Standing**
- B. Kneeling**
- C. Falling on His Face**

**"If the son of God got down upon His knees, yes upon His face before God, what attitude should we ordinary mortals assume as we go into His presence?"**

### **II. The Place of His Prayers**

#### **A. He Prayed in Secret**

- 1. His own practiced was reflected in His command to His disciple to engage in secret prayer.**
- 2. Shut in with God, shut out from all else.**

#### **B. He Prayed in the Company of Others**

- 1. He frequently took His disciples apart to pray.**
- 2. His longest public prayer was offered in the presence of His disciples.**

#### **C. He Prayed in Solitude**

- 1. He enjoyed a solitude not only of time and place, but a spirit→that is much more difficult to attain.**
- 3. He apparently possessed such power of concentration that even the presence of His disciples did not disturb His spirit of solitude.**

### **III. The Occasion of His Prayers**

#### **A. There are 9 Occasions When Jesus Prayed**

- 1. At His baptism**
- 2. After a day of miracles**
- 3. Before choosing His disciples**
- 4. Before the first prediction of His death**
- 5. On the Mt. of Transfiguration**
- 6. Before teaching His disciples to pray**
- 7. When the 70 returned with their reports**
- 8. In the garden of Gethsemane**
- 9. On the cross**

#### **B. These Occasions Affords Us Instruction for Our Prayer Life**

**Our Lord prayed in the morning and in the evening.**

- 1. Great crises were preceded by prayer**
  - a. While He prayed, the Holy Spirit descended on Him.**
  - b. His selection of the 12, after whole night in prayer.**
  - c. The Transfiguration was an answer to His prayer.**
- 2. Great achievements were preceded by prayer**
  - a. Feeding of the 4,000**

- b. Feeding of the 5,000
- c. Walking on the sea
- d. Raising of Lazarus
- e. Healing the insane boy
- f. Upholding Peter on the sea
- 3. Great achievements were followed by prayer
- 4. Great pressure of work was a call to extra prayer
  - a. Our Lord's life was exceptionally busy and under constant pressure.
  - b. But this never was allowed to crowd out prayer.
- 5. Great sorrows were met in prayer
  - a. The greatest sorrow was the forsaking of His Father
  - b. The habit of a lifetime cannot be quenched even in the hour of death.

#### **IV. The Character of His Prayers**

The prayers of our Lord that are recorded give us a rich insight into His character.

##### **A. His Prayers Revealed A Filial Spirit**

- 1. The sense of His own Sonship and of God's Fatherhood formed the background of His prayer life.
- 2. Observe how He addresses God in His prayers in the Upper Room and in Gethsemane → "Father," "O My Father," and "Holy Father."

##### **B. His prayers Were Replete with Thanksgiving**

- 1. "I thank Thee O Father: was a characteristic expression in His prayers.
- 2. Thanksgiving was an integral part of His life.

##### **C. His Prayers Included NO Confession of Sin**

- 1. There was never any sense of distance from His Father in His heart.
- 2. He not only "did no sin," but positively asserted "I do always those things that please Him."

##### **D. In His Prayer, Communion Was Important**

His high-priestly prayer is a choice example of communion with God at its highest.

##### **E. His Prayers Embraced Petition and Supplication**

- 1. Prayer for His own needs and those of His friends and followers.
- 2. He prayed for the rebellious and even those who crucified Him.

##### **F. His Prayers Were Invariably Answered**

- 1. "I know that Thou hearest me always."
- 2. This petition shows the essence of real prayer → total surrender to a full correspondence with the mind and will and character of God.

Of all His characteristics, the prayerfulness of our Lord impressed His disciples most deeply.

They did not ask Him how to preach or heal or teach, but they did make a request which each of us could take in our lips at this moment, "LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY."