

THE LIFE-CHANGING POWER OF PRAYER

By **T. W. Hunt**

LESSON 3

OUR EXAMPLE AND OUR HELPER IN PRAYER

Jesus, Our Example in Prayer

Jesus Prayed Continually
 Jesus Taught His Followers to Pray
 Jesus Taught the Importance of Prayer

Praise God for your desire to study the Bible. We welcome you to join our Wednesday Night Bible Study sessions at FAME, 7:00 – 8:00 PM before the 3rd and 4th Sundays.

Directions: Please read and study the scripture lesson and any other scripture references, the Illumination section, and the Observation section, than answer the questions in the Exploration section. When you submit your answers on the answer sheet a Bible study teacher will review your answers and provide comments within 2 weeks of submission. These comments will enrich your Bible study experience and is not intended to grade or judge your knowledge or understanding.

Scripture Lesson	Illumination
<p>John 17</p> <p><i>Jesus Prays for Himself</i></p> <p>¹After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ²For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.</p> <p><i>Jesus Prays for His Disciples</i></p> <p>⁶"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. ¹³"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.</p> <p><i>Jesus Prays for All Believers</i></p> <p>²⁰"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: ²³I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. ²⁵"Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."</p> <p>The Lord's Prayer - Matt. 6:9-13</p> <p>⁹"This, then, is how you should pray: " 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us today our daily bread. ¹²Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Glorify – this phrase refers to act of honoring and praising God ❖ World – this phrase in John 17 refers to the world systems. ❖ Sanctify – this phrase refers to setting aside to do the will of God. ❖ Debts – this phrase in Matt. 6:12 refers to sin. ❖ Temptation – this phrase in Matt. 6:13 refers to testing. It does not refer to enticing to do evil.

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Observations

- ❖ Jesus prayed continually on varied occasions.
 - He prayed early in the morning. Mark 1:35
 - He prayed at night. Matt. 14:23
 - He prayed alone. John 6:15
 - He prayed in large public gatherings. Matt.14:19; Luke 23:24
 - He prayed during a miracle. John 11:41-42
 - He blessed a meal. Matt.26:27
 - He prayed for a blessing for others. Matt. 19:13-15; Luke 24:50
 - He prayed when He had to make major decisions. Luke 6:12-13
 - He prayed during personal crises. Matt 26:39-39
- ❖ One of the longest prayers is John 17 when Jesus prayed for Himself, the disciples and those who would follow Him through the centuries.
 - In verses 1-5 Jesus prayed for Himself.
 - Jesus wanted to do the work that the Lord had sent Him to earth to do so that God the Father could be honored and praised.
 - In verses 6-19 Jesus prayed for His disciples.
 - Jesus established His relationship with God the Father
 - Jesus established His relationship with the disciples.
 - Jesus petitions include:
 - That they should be one. Verse 11
 - Keep them from the evil one. Verse 16
 - Sanctify them in the truth. Verse 17
 - In verses 20-26 Jesus prayed for all Believers.
 - Jesus petitions for us include:
 - That we may believe in Him. Verse 21
 - That we may be one in honoring and praising God. Verse 22
- ❖ Jesus taught His followers to pray. He taught them what not to do and what to do.
 - Two prohibitions of prayer.
 - We are not to pray like religious hypocrites – for display. Mark 12:40; Matt. 6:5-6
 - Jewish religious leaders would pray in public so that they could be seen.
 - Prayer is private communication between us and God. We can pray in private.
 - During public prayers we are praying not to be seen, but to intercede for others.

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Observations, continued

- We are not to pray like pagans – babbling meaninglessly. Matt. 6:7
 - Jesus is referring to empty recitation of words.
 - Pagan priest would wait for hours using empty words. I King 18:26
 - Jesus is not referring to repeating yourself when you really mean it and your heart is burdened. Matt. 26:39-44
- Jesus emphasized faith in praying. Matt 21:21-22.
- Jesus taught us to pray providing a model, The Lord's Prayer. Matt.6:9-14.
 - The prayer begins with acknowledging our intimate relationship with God – *Our Father* – Verse 9A
 - We acknowledge the sovereignty of God and His Holiness– *In Heaven* – Verse 9B
 - The first three petitions are concerned with God's nature and purpose.
 - Asking that we pray on behalf of the holiness of God's name which includes worshipping reverencing and honoring God – *Hallow be your Name* – Verse 9C
 - Asking for God's spiritual reign in our life and in the world. – *Your kingdom come* - 10A
 - Asking for God's purpose to be done in our life and in the world as in heaven – *Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven* – 10B (In heaven only the purposes of God will be done.)
 - The last three petitions are concerned with the person praying within community.
 - Asking for physical needs. – *Give us today our daily bread.* – Verse 11
 - Asking God to forgive us of our sins so that we can continue in fellowship with Him. *Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.* – Verse 12 (As we are moved by God forgiving us we are moved to forgive those who do us wrong.)
 - Asking for protection from testing and Satan. - *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.* – Verse 13 (We ask for protection knowing that sometimes God will give us a test to show us how we are learning. We ask for protection knowing that Satan is always trying to entice us to sin.)
 - The ending/doxology of the prayer (*For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen*) is not in the most ancient manuscripts and may not appear in every translation/version today.
- Other teachings on prayer include:
 - When we ask God, He opens the door. Matt. 7:7-8
 - God knows how to give good gifts. Matt.7:9-11
 - The Lord will provide what we need. Luke 11:5-13; 18:1-8; Matt.18:19; John 16:23
 - We need to be persistence in our prayers because it gives us time to be sure of what we want. However be prepared for God's answer. God will not go against His character and purpose. Gen. 18:20-32
 - The promises that Jesus gave concerning prayer is limitless. Our human minds can not perceive all that God has for His children. John 14:13-14
 - Unified prayers lead to bonding in faith, and increased faith. Matt. 18:19-20
- **It is necessary that our petitions are according to the Lord's will for our life. Matt. 6:10; 26:39, 42; John 5:30; 6:38; 17:4.**

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Exploration

Consider the book, "The Life-Changing Power of Prayer", the Illumination section and Observation section for your answers.

1. Are there specific occasions when we should pray? Why or why not? Where were there specific occasions when Jesus prayed. Why or why not?
2. Read John 17. What are the relationships between Jesus and God; Jesus and His disciple; Jesus and Believers?
3. List the additional petitions of Jesus in John 17.
4. George Newton (1602-81), a Puritan pastor in England, said in a sermon on John 17, "Our prayers shew our hearts to Christ; His prayer shews His heart to us". Meditate on the statement. Share with the class what you think Newton meant. Please include in your sharing a description of the heart of Jesus. How would describe your heart during your prayers in this past week.
5. How would you explain the two prohibitions of praying?
6. Why is it important that our petitions from the Lord be in accordance to His will for us?
7. What does the model prayer teach you about praying?

Thought For The Week: Jesus always prayed and so should we.

