

Luke 11:1
“Pray Like Jesus!”
September 23rd 2012

Introduction

- There has never been anyone like Jesus!
 - No one loved like Jesus loved – He would touch the leper, stoop down to minister to the man who couldn't walk, defended the adulterer – no one loved like Jesus
 - No one served like Jesus – I mean the Creator of the Universe, God incarnate, girded up His robe, took a bowl and towel and washed those nasty, dirty, funky feet of the disciples – no one served like Jesus
 - No one ever taught like Jesus – When He would preach there would be an authority like no one had ever heard – no one had ever spoken such honest, truthful, passionate and purposeful words and yet the common people, the sinners, they just wanted to get close and hear Him speak because – no one spoke like Jesus
- But as you well know by now in this series
 - It was not His loving nature that the disciples said, “Oh Lord teach us to love!”
 - It was not His serving manner of which the disciples said, “How can I serve like you?”
 - It wasn't even His teaching that James and John and Peter said, “Lord teach us to preach!”
- No – you Bible students know that it was about His prayer life that the disciples said, that is distinct, that is different – that is altogether no where I am at
 - Lord teach us to pray
 - We need to hear this, this morning

Because we need to be like Jesus

- I need to love like Jesus, I need to serve like Jesus, and I want to preach like Jesus, I want to trust like Jesus, but of course I agree with the disciples, I need to pray like Jesus
 - The disciples really got this
 - They watched him and said, Lord teach us to pray

But what I want us to consider is what had they noticed? What was it about Jesus' personal prayer life that attracted them?

- Well, lucky for us, these disciples not only noticed Jesus' prayer life, but wrote them down for us to be blessed and challenged by as well
 - Now we could take weeks just looking at the various prayers of Jesus in the Scriptures, Pastor Rob has already been working through the model of Prayer the Jesus taught in Matthew chapter 6
 - And we may focus in further on some of these prayers as we move along in the series
- But I want us to consider five aspects of the prayers of Jesus this morning and hopefully not only will they inspire us to say, “Lord teach us to pray” but may they also give us insight into how we too can Pray like Jesus
 - 5 things if you are taking notes this morning...

- **what would have the disciples noticed about Jesus' prayer life?**

Pray Like Jesus

#1 – Jesus Prayed Consistently

“So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.” – Luke 5:16

- prayer for Jesus was not something He did only when all else failed

My grandma used to say jokingly about prayer, “has it come to that”

- and she was kidding, but some really are that way
 - oh no – the boss said I'm fired
 - the doctor said Cancer
 - The wife said, “I'm leaving you”
- Now its time to pray!

Oh listen, I am not discouraging you from praying in those distressing moments, we need to pray in those moments

- I am just saying, that one of the things the disciples would have noticed about Jesus' prayer life that it was not only reactionary to trying situations, it was a consistent part of His life

Now here is usually where the guilt part of the sermon comes in

- “Jesus prayed consistently”
 - Jesus got up, Mark chapter one, a long while before daylight, there He prayed
 - If Jesus prayed consistently, early in the morning, how much more should you, you rotten, good for nothing sinners, learn to pray!
- Listen, booking you on the next guilt trip is not hard to do
 - Because all of us know we need to pray more
 - Guilt is not for me to provide, but it is not my heart at all and I don't think ever produces real consistency in prayer

What will however produce consistency that we really all need in prayer, is to understand, as Pastor Rob has been teaching us, what a privilege it is to talk to God

- and privilege because we are told to address Him as Father
 - Jesus taught us to pray, like Him, Our Father

You see as I begin to pray, Dad, I need to talk some things over with you

- I begin to think about all that He has done for me, what a privilege it is to be His kid
 - That He loves me, me – a rotten sinner
 - That He is for me, faithful toward me, even when I am faithless
 - That like a Father He has provided for everyone of my needs and many of my wants
 - He is so good to me, my heavenly Dad – I want to be with Him, I want to talk life over with Him
- It is not something I have to do consistently, it is something I get to do consistently

Most of you know I grew up without a Dad, but at the same I had a really, really great Grandpa, in fact I being the first Grandchild gave him the name all other grandkids would use – Papa – When my Dad left, we moved in with my grandparents and He filled in that role so well in my life – He was the hardest worker I ever met, they owned stamp vending

business, and he would carry these 50 pounds bag of quarters and sling them two at a time over his shoulder. He was a great handy man, and he gave me things to do to learn

Picture of my Grandpa and me in his shop

After school on days when he would pick me up, we would get ice cream together, maybe a burger and fries – it was so much fun to be with him. During the summer sometimes he would say, do you want to go to work with me, to service the machines and collect the quarters – oh yes – it wasn't work, it wasn't a chore, it was being with someone that was so wonderful.

That is how I think we need to view prayer

- That is how I feel about my heavenly Dad – what He has done for me is amazing
 - I want to know Him and I want to be like Him
- And it happens as I consistently spend time with Him through the avenue of prayer

We have talked about this many times before, but we become like those we are around

- It amazes me, if you have been surfing sports talk radio and ended up for a while listening the Jim Rome show, the people that call that show, talk just like him, just like the host
 - Rome, thanks for the vine, here's my take – who talks that way, normally?
 - I don't – I'm not in staff meeting when Pastor Rob asks, "Jason what do you think" - Pastor Rob – thanks for the Vine, here is my take
 - No one talks that way, except for the people who constantly listen to that stuff

Now listen – this is critical, and Pastor Rob has been hitting this point

- We come to the Lord consistently to talk things over with Dad, our Father in heaven
 - Not because He needs our info – oh thanks for letting Me know
 - Not because I am going to twist His arm
- But I need to come to Him consistently for relationship, to be with Him, so I can be like Him
 - He is a far greater need in my life than anything I am praying for – but as I pray
 - He rubs off on who we are – as we learn from Jesus' example to pray with consistency
- It's not a law, doesn't make God love me anymore
 - It makes me more like Him and therefore it is critical that I pray with consistency

What would have the disciples noticed about Jesus' prayer life?

Pray Like Jesus

#1 – Jesus Prayed Consistently

#2 – Jesus Prayed with Specificity

"Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His

disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles:” – Luke 6:12-13

Not only did Jesus pray consistently, but He also prayed with specificity

- And what I mean by that is not only did Jesus daily talk anything and everything over with His father – it was about relationship
 - But He, also when faced with specific issues, understood the importance of going to His Father in heaven concerning them
 - Taking special time to pray through special issues

The example in Luke 6 was the choosing of the Apostles

- Thousands of people were in the crowds, following Jesus
 - Luke chapter 10 said He sent 70 disciples on a mission, so to speak
 - But when it was time to narrow that number down to 12 – Jesus spent all night in the mountains in prayer
- why all night? – I wonder if the Lord was saying – Peter, really Peter – Not so Lord, that guy, that I called Satan?, you want me to chose Peter?
 - James, John, the guys who wanted to set people on fire, those guys make the final cut?
 - Judas – are you kidding Me?

Now – I’m sure that is not how it went with Jesus talking to His Father, but sometimes that is how it goes with me - there are many occasions I don’t understand what I perceive in my heart to be the will of God

- And I have learned, talk it over with specificity

God, I sense You leading me to leave this church of a thousand people in Paris Texas where my every wish is the staff’s command, and the cost of living is so low and everything is so easy

- I love that Vista congregation, but am I hearing You right on this?
 - You see precious people this is so important – it is so important when faced with decisions and directions to go in your life, that you with specificity talk things over with Dad

The reason – God’s will isn’t always easy

- I know to marry Christy Duff was the best thing I ever did in my life, but you that are married know the best marriages are real – and there have been days, especially for her, where we are so glad we talked this over with Dad – we know it’s Him, no worries
 - Pastoring the church in Texas was such a joy, but it was real church with real people and real problems – and I was glad that before leaving the best job in the world, the YP as this church, I had talked thing with over with Dad – it’s tuff – but I have heard the heart of the Father on this

You see to not pray over specific decisions and directions it really demonstrates pride in your own ability to make decisions

- And though you may be wise, you may be able to make the charts, pros and cons and make very educated decisions - listen
 - God will call you as a disciple to love the unlovable
 - God will call you to get out of your homeland to a place that I will show you
 - God will call you at times to suffer and never tell you why

And in those times you can take your charts and graphs and throw in the trash, because that is how important they are in those moments

- but you keep marching on, because you have heard from your heavenly Father, as you have talked things with Him with Specificity

What would have the disciples noticed about Jesus' prayer life?

Pray Like Jesus

#1 – Jesus Prayed Consistently

#2 – Jesus Prayed with Specificity

#3 – Jesus Prayed with Thankfulness

“At that time Jesus answered and said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth...” – Matthew 11:25

- The disciples noticed that Jesus prayed consistently, with specificity, and they would've noticed He prayed with thankfulness
 - Jesus was thankful, verbally thankful what God had done and provided for Him
- He was thankful for the food God provided – Jesus did thank God for His meals

“Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes.” – Matthew 14:19

- Sometimes we think, why do we do these traditions of saying, God thank you providing food
 - Ah because Jesus did!

He broke bread and said – thank you God – some Jewish traditions prayed after they ate, Jesus thanked God for providing in advance

- And this is so important for you and me –
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I mean not so much that you pray over your food, – the food should already be blessed – unless you have a steady diet of food items that end in “ito” – you know - Dorrito, Chettio, friito – then yes you may want to pray that God would step in and save you from your poor meal choices

- But it is far more important for us in prayer, to thank God for everything He has done
 - Why – because reminding ourselves of His past faithfulness, Helps our hearts to realize, He will be faithful in the future

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things...” – Psalm 103:2-5

- David would say – Lord you forgave my sin, you healed me when I was sick, you redeem my life from destruction, and satisfy my mouth with good things
 - I know you are going to be faithful, to be good, not always to give me what I want, but I know You will continually be good!

What would have the disciples noticed about Jesus' prayer life?

Pray Like Jesus

#1 – Jesus Prayed Consistently

#2 – Jesus Prayed with Specificity

#3 – Jesus Prayed with Thankfulness

#4 – Jesus Prayed with Thoughtfulness

- The disciples would have noticed Jesus prayed with consistency, he prayed with specificity, they would have noticed He would have prayed with thankfulness, and thoughtfulness – what do I mean?

“And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail” – Luke 22:31-32

- Jesus in His prayer life was not just concerned for Himself and His own needs
 - But He was concerned continually with the needs of others
- I mean even on the cross – you Bible students remember that one of the last things Jesus did was arrange the care of His mother

“When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold your son!” Then He said to the disciple, “Behold your mother!” And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.” – John 19:26-27

- What an example to you and me to be thoughtful in our prayer for others
 - What a privilege we have to get our eyes off ourselves and partner with what is happening all over the world
- I love this about prayer
 - Not all of us have the time, money or resources to travel to Argentina, to partner with Greg Laurie and the Harvest Crusades
 - But all of us have the opportunity to get in our prayer closet and start to do battle on behalf of missions, churches, and or fellow brothers and sisters in Christ

You know we have the once a month mission’s prayer night and the nights that it has been in my home and I have been home, which is a rare combination, but I can’t tell you how much I love it – in one hour I feel like I have traveled the globe and spiritually, which is where the real battle is

I have been able to spiritually strengthen the McKays in Costa Rica and then jump further south and the Williamsons in Argentina, then across the Ocean to partner with the Halls in Australia, and then the Middle East with the Apples and Pamela in Israel, to Europe with Stewarts in Italy and Metzgers in Hungary – what a use of an hour

- I don’t know about you, but I have the ability to waste so much time

I have loved the last two messages that Pastor Rob has shared on prayer – except in the first message where He said, and I quote, “You are all too mature in this church for fantasy football” – I am offended – because my fantasy team is doing great Pastor Rob – not mature? do you realize how much maturity it takes to think through who to start, who their opponent is, which running backs will do better against a weak run defense, which wide receiver will do better against a poor pass defenses –(I am giving away my strategy, Noah Lashbrook, the afor mentioned Pastor Phil Mckay is in the league) - I don’t want to give away strategy, but that takes time, dedication and a mature of knowledge of the great American sport of football

- lack of maturity – no way!
 - huge waste of time – maybe???

- I can waste so much time in a week
- And I can take an hour and really bless fellow believers, pastors and missionaries far greater than sending them any sum of money
 - And when I do, when we do – we are praying a lot like Jesus

What would have the disciples noticed about Jesus' prayer life?

Pray Like Jesus

#1 – Jesus Prayed Consistently

#2 – Jesus Prayed with Specificity

#3 – Jesus Prayed with Thankfulness

#4 – Jesus Prayed with Thoughtfulness

#5 – Jesus Prayed with Submission

The disciples would have noticed Jesus prayed with consistency, He prayed with specificity, they would have noticed He would have prayed with thankfulness, thoughtfulness

- and finally they would have noticed He prayed with submission
 - turn in your Bible to Matthew chapter 26, starting with verse 36-39

I am convinced Jesus considered this prayer in the garden super important for us to think through

- why would I say that? – because apparently Jesus taught on the Gethsemane prayer after the resurrection –
 - why would I say that - because the only people there at the time were sleeping while Jesus was talking with the Father
 - so how did they know what He said – I'm sure Jesus would teach them later – “yeah the night you were all sawing logs, here was the interchange between Me and the heavenly Father...”

And we can learn much – First of all that when things got difficult Jesus turned to His Father

- He turned to His Father in prayer
 - You know - when you are going through pain you will always by default seem to turn to your functional savior, be it alcohol or pornography or shopping
- wherever it is, you will find yourself there when pushed turning to that functional savior

But Jesus models something we need to think through – when that hour came for Jesus –He went to His father in prayer

- He says “Father”
 - I know we have been talking about this, but another aspect of calling God Father in prayer teaches me that I can be real but respectful

He is our Dad – we can be real

- Jesus is real here – Father if there be anyway to let this cup pass, lets go in that direction
 - Jesus is being very real with His Father in heaven

And He goes to His Father three separate times

- Why – because it takes some time to work things out in our lives
 - Friends - Christianity is real life – sometimes you see on Christian TV someone say – give your life to Christ and all your problems will go away
 - That is just not true

- It's not true because you are still a sinner and you still live in a sinful world – and as Jesus who always spoke honestly said

“In this life you shall have tribulation” – John 16:33

- and when it is hard, when the husband says it's over, when the doctor says Cancer – its real life
 - And we go to the Lord and work it out
 - It is okay to grieve, to pour out emotions you are talking things over with Dad – and be real

He is our Dad, we can be real, but we must also be respectful

- Jesus poured out His heart to His Dad, who He knew loved Him – He poured out Real emotions and stated His desire

But then, don't miss this – Jesus wasn't just real, He was respectful

- But then Jesus prayed, nevertheless – not My will but Yours be done
 - You see when my kids come to me, they know they can be real, they know they can come to me and say – Dad this is how I feel, this is my opinion, this is where my heart is
 - They know they can be real, because I am their Dad and Dad loves them and Dad wants the best for them
- They can be real, but they also must be respectful
 - My kids don't make ultimatums – “Dad you will buy me a new bike, Dad you will let me stay up late”
 - Oh – sometimes they try, but they are reminded right away – that is not how you talk to Dad
 - I love them, I want them to be real – but they also must be respectful

I point that out because again there is on Christian TV sometimes what I believe to be false teaching, that if I demand in faith, if I insist on my will, God is going to be bullied into giving me what I want

- Let's not forget Jesus was homeless, poor, despised, and eventually betrayed and crucified
 - But sometimes if you watch some of these programs it seems that if I can just have enough faith in Jesus, I won't have to live like Jesus
 - That makes no sense at all

Now we are going to talk about “insisting with persistence”, next week and why God does encourage us to keep asking Him and to ask in faith

- but there is a huge difference between continually seeking the heart of your heavenly Father who loves you in a real and respectful way and demanding that He obey you
 - When we pray – we learn from Jesus – He prayed with consistency, He prayed with specificity, He prayed with thankfulness toward God and thoughtfulness toward others
 - And He prayed in submission to His Father in heaven
- He was real – Father, let this cup pass
 - He was respectful, submitted – never the less, not My will but Yours be done

You see precious church, what do you do when your child is sick

- you pray, you pray like crazy that God would touch and heal the child
 - and – “Lord - Your will be done”

What do you do when your spouse says, “I have cheated and I am leaving you”

- you pray, pray like crazy, God this is how I feel, this is what I am going through, heal his heart, change her mind
 - and – “Lord - Your will be done”

What do you do when the boss says, you are fired?

- you pray – pray God please help me to find another job, oh Lord provide for me, Lord the bills are piling up, please help me out – you be real – you pray that and what else church????
 - and – “Lord - Your will be done”

You see, we either believe that God is real or He is not

- Either He loves you or He doesn't
- Either He knows more than you do or He does not
- Either He is powerful enough to run the universe and your life or He isn't
 - And when we say – Dad – this is what I am feeling, this is my desire, but Your will be done
 - You express to your Father in heaven, I know You are my Dad, I know You care, I know You want to hear my heart, I know that You are not too busy running the universe to care about me, but I also know that You are more wise than I will ever pretend to be and You are more good than the best intentions of my heart
 - So in Your unfailing love and in Your unsearchable wisdom, I do surrender
 - Because that is what I see Jesus do

The Disciples said “Lord teach us to pray”

- because what they saw in Him was One who prayed with consistency, specificity, thankfulness to God and thoughtfulness for others and One who was totally surrendered to His Father in heaven
 - and I would say – Lord teach us to pray the same way
- Teach us the privilege to everyday talk stuff over with You, Dad
 - Teach us to take the very specific things and take some time to wrestle over those things with You
- Teach us to be thankful – because Lord You have been so good, and You will continue to be good
 - Teach us to be thoughtful – partner with others
- Teach us to live in submission to You – Lord here is my heart, but not my will, but Yours be done