Jesus and Prayer

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INTRODUCTION

- If you had to give me a third activity that dominated the earthly walk of Jesus beyond his teaching, beyond his miracles... The answer would be praying.
- This morning I'd like for us to think about the life of Jesus as the life of prayer.
- How can I better be praying and speaking to my Father, having learned from the example of Jesus?

1 Why Did Jesus Have to Pray?

John 11:41–42

- Jesus prayed because he understood that even for the Son of God, even for God incarnate, this was God's designed plan of communication to God.
- Father, I thank you that you have heard me. And I know that you always hear me.
- Because he had a relationship with his Father, and while he was in the flesh, this is how he could communicate to his Father.
- His prayer, second maybe only to his physical suffering, his prayer highlights his humanity.

2 Jesus Always Made Time to Pray

Luke 5:16; Luke 9:28

- It'd be difficult to think of a human being who had a busier three years than Jesus.
- We see Jesus at the beginning and at the end of his earthly ministry. Praying.
- He makes time to pray by getting up early in the morning.
- So he himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.
- He took Peter, James, and John and went up to the mountain to pray.
- Could somebody be reflecting on your life saying, they pray?

3 A Purpose in Prayer

Luke 6:12–13; John 17

- I fear that sometimes I model my prayers after the public prayers. Which does a grave disservice to my prayer life.
- Prayer is not something that's to be done ritualistically two or three times a day.
- Jesus never just prayed, did he? He had a purpose in his prayer.
- He praised and honored his father. He made requests of his father. He made intercessions for others.
- When it was day, he called his disciples to himself, and from them he chose twelve, whom he also named apostles.

4 Jesus Always Submitted to the Will of His Father

- But Jesus always submitted to the will of his Father.
- We think of that prayer in the garden. When tears and sweat as great drops of blood.
- We pray because it's our means of communicating to our heavenly loving Father. But we ultimately submit to His will.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **And so let's pray. Let's pray like Jesus Christ. Rise early in the morning. There may be times when you need to pray all night long. Pray with a purpose. But pray.**

MY NOTES