

LUKE: OUR PERFECT SAVIOR THE PERFECTIONS OF JESUS

ALL 4 OF THE GOSPELS SPEAK TO US

The Gospels record Christ's ministry to the four groups of people then and now in the world.

- ⇒ **Matthew speaks to the Jews** and the deeply religious of our day. The Jews who loved the Scriptures and the prophecies of God. They would only listen to one of their own.
- ⇒ **Mark spoke to the Romans.** These were the leaders and leadership and action impressed them. They knew nothing of Scriptures but everything of power. So to this group comes the action packed Gospel of the powerful ministry of Christ. Mark uses the word "and" 1,375 times to tie together the endless actions of Christ. Like our modern successful business man and woman, they want a God who can powerfully meet their deepest needs.
- ⇒ **Luke was a Greek speaking to the Greeks.** The Greeks loved culture, beauty and ideas. Happiness could be found in the pursuit of truth. Luke fills his book with insights, interviews, songs and details that fascinate the inquiring mind. So today the truth seekers find Jesus in Luke!
- ⇒ **John wrote to everyone,** because everyone needs to meet God and only Jesus can reveal Him. In this book we meet an absolutely powerful God in human flesh who controls and rules the Universe He created. So the best known verse is the best of all offer that God loves all and offers all -- His Son as their only hope!

EACH OF THE SYNOPTICS ARE A SNAPSHOT OF JESUS

Remember how we surveyed the Gospels by noting a key verse for each book!

MATTHEW "CHRIST THE KING"

Matthew 2:2 saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." (NKJV) Worship Christ the King!

- D. Healing the insane boy (Mk. 9:14-29)
- III. **JESUS PRAYERFULLY SOUGHT GOD'S HELP IN** Maintaining a proper focus in success was strengthened by prayer:
 - A. After feeding 5,000 (Matt. 14:23)
 - B. After raising Lazarus (John 11:41)
- IV. **JESUS PRAYERFULLY SOUGHT GOD'S** Direction for facing the stresses of life was found in prayer:
 - A. Multitudes (Lk. 5:15-16)
 - B. Sick folks (Mk. 1:35 [wilderness, v. 33 - whole city at door, so....])
 - C. Ministry needs (Lk. 4:42)
 - D. Urgent situations (Jn. 6:15) [human efforts and ambitions vs. God within]
- V. **JESUS PRAYERFULLY SOUGHT GOD'S COMFORT.** His Emotions were sheltered by resorting to prayer:
 - A. Uncaring friends (Matt. 26:36-46)
 - B. Discouragement at misguided disciples (Jn. 6:15) (their v. 39 lack faith)
 - C. Unbecoming attitudes and words of friends (Jn. - confident in God)
 - D. The pain of His calling -- the cross (Jn. 12:28)
- VI. **JESUS PRAYERFULLY SOUGHT GOD'S WILL IN** the consummation of His life. It was met in prayer:
 - A. His last breath on the cross (Lk. 23:46)
- VII. **JESUS PRAYERFULLY SOUGHT GOD'S** goals. His earthly prayer life may be seen as:
 - A. Harmony with God's plan was His passion (Jn. 17:4)
 - B. Thankfulness was a part of all His life (Lk. 10:21)
 - C. Perfection was His for He never confessed sin (I Pet. 2:22; Jn. 8:29)
 - D. God's glory, not His personal needs, was primary (Jn.
 - E. Confidence: He always had a confidence in God's hearing and answering (Jn. 11:42)
 - F. Submission: Every part of His life demonstrated submission (Lk. 22:
 - G. Intercession was always on His heart:
 - 1. For His disciples' growth (Lk. 23:31)
 - 2. For His enemies needing saving grace (Lk. 23:34)
 - H. In all truly selfless (Jn. 17:11)

Is prayer a priority? Talking to God.

Is the word a priority? Doing God's will.

33-"Prayer catapults us to the frontiers of the spiritual life.";

JESUS SHOWS THE PERFECT BASIS OF PRAYER

Luke 11:1-4

'HOW TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH GOD''

In essence Jesus Christ gives the pattern for perfect communion with an eternal Father. Look and learn the only hope we have to be properly in touch with our Father...

PERFECT PRAYER INVOLVES A NEW RELATIONSHIP

First of all, let's summarize the key elements of this marvelous pattern to guide our communion with God.

We are introduced to our various relationships with God, as:

- Parent/child = our Father
- Creator/creature = hallowed be Thy name
- King/subject = Thy kingdom come
- Master/servant = Thy will be done
- Provider/receiver = give us this day our bread
- Savior/sinner = forgive us our sins
- Guide/follower = lead us not into temptation

PERFECT PRAYER IS SO VITAL WE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT IT!

"Avail yourself of the greatest privilege this side of heaven. Jesus Christ died to make this communion and communication with the Father possible."
- Billy Graham

"Prayer is a powerful thing, for God has bound and tied Himself thereto." - Martin Luther

"God's acquaintance is not made hurriedly. He does not bestow His gifts on the casual or hasty comer and goer. To be much alone with God is the secret of knowing Him and of influence with Him." - E. M. Bounds

There are two spiritual activities which are to be an unceasing, constant part of a believer's life: The study of the Word of God and prayer. These two great pillars hold up the believer in his daily life. The apostles, in Acts 6:4, acknowledged this when they said, *"We will give ourselves continually to prayer, and the ministry of the word."* Prayer and studying the Word are the composite interchange between man and God: we speak to God through prayer and God speaks to us through the study of His Word. And so the Bible tells us that we are to be unceasingly involved in both:

- 1) The Word is to be a matter of our thoughts and conversation continually (Deut. 6:5-9)
- 2) We are to be continually engaged in prayer. The Apostle Paul said, *"Pray without ceasing"* (1 Thess. 5:17), *"Praying always..."* (Eph. 6:18), *"...in*

everything by prayer...with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God” (Phil. 4:6).

These two activities should become the consuming elements of the life of the believer – hearing God as He speaks in His Word and speaking to God in our own prayers. If prayer is something we are to do unceasingly, then we better know how to do it properly! And so, our Lord teaches us to pray. Notice what He doesn’t teach us about prayer:

1. **DON’T LET THE MECHANICS HOLD YOU BACK.** He doesn’t teach us about the posture of prayer – because any posture will do. In the Bible, people prayer in all different positions:
 - ⇒ standing (Gen. 24:12-14)
 - ⇒ bowing down (Ex. 34:8)
 - ⇒ lifting hands (1 Tim. 2:8)
 - ⇒ on face (Matt. 26:39)
 - ⇒ sitting (Jud. 20:26)
 - ⇒ head between knees (1 Kgs. 18:42)
 - ⇒ kneeling (Mk. 1:40)
 - ⇒ facing temple (Dan. 6:10)
 - ⇒ uplifted eyes (Jn. 17:1)
 - ⇒ smiting breast (Lk. 18:13)

2. **DON’T LET YOUR LOCATION HOLD YOU BACK.** He doesn’t teach us about the place of prayer – because we are to pray everywhere. In the Bible, people prayed in all different places:
 - ⇒ In battle (2 Chron. 13:14-15)
 - ⇒ everywhere (1 Tim. 2:8)
 - ⇒ In a cave (1 Kgs. 19:9-10)
 - ⇒ in bed (Ps. 4:3-4, 8; 63:6)
 - ⇒ In a closet (Matt. 6:6)
 - ⇒ in a home (Acts 9:39-40)
 - ⇒ In a garden (Matt. 26:36-44)
 - ⇒ in a fish (Jonah 2:1-10)
 - ⇒ On a mountain (Lk. 6:12)
 - ⇒ on a house top (Acts 10:9)
 - ⇒ By a river (Acts 16:13)
 - ⇒ in prison (Acts 16:23-26)
 - ⇒ By the sea (Acts 21:5-6)
 - ⇒ in solitude (Mk. 1:35)
 - ⇒ In the street (Matt. 6:5)
 - ⇒ in the wilderness (Lk. 5:16)
 - ⇒ In God’s house (1 Kgs. 8:27-30)
 - ⇒ on a cross (Lk. 23:33, 34, 46)
 - ⇒ In hades (Lk. 16:22-31)
 - ⇒ in heaven (Rom. 8:34)

3. **DON'T LET YOUR SCHEDULE HOLD YOU BACK.** He doesn't teach us about the times of prayer – because we are to pray at all times. In the Bible, people prayed at all different times:
- ⇒ Early morning (Mk. 1:35)
 - ⇒ midnight (Acts 16:25)
 - ⇒ Morning (I Chron. 23:30)
 - ⇒ day and night (Lk. 2:37; 18:7)
 - ⇒ Three times a day (Dan. 6:10)
 - ⇒ today (Ps. 95:6, 8)
 - ⇒ Evening (1 Kgs. 18:36)
 - ⇒ often (Lk. 5:33)
 - ⇒ Before meals (Matt 14:19)
 - ⇒ in youth (Jer. 3:4)
 - ⇒ After meals (Deut. 8:10)
 - ⇒ in trouble (2 Kgs. 19:3-4)
 - ⇒ Ninth hour (Acts 3:1)
 - ⇒ daily (Ps. 86:3)
 - ⇒ Bedtime (Ps. 4:4)
 - ⇒ always (Lk. 18:1; 1 Thess. 5:17)
4. **DON'T LET YOUR TROUBLES HOLD YOU BACK.** He doesn't teach us about the circumstances of prayer – because any circumstance will do. In the bible, people prayed in all kinds of circumstances:
- ⇒ Wearing sackcloth (Ps. 35:13)
 - ⇒ loud crying (Heb. 5:7)
 - ⇒ Sitting in ashes (Job 1:20-21)
 - ⇒ sweating blood (Lk. 22:44)
 - ⇒ Shaving head (Job 2:8)
 - ⇒ agony (Lk. 22:44)
 - ⇒ Smiting breast (Lk. 18:13)
 - ⇒ broken heart (Ps. 34:18)
 - ⇒ Crying (Ps. 6:6)
 - ⇒ pouring out one's heart (Ps. 62:8)
 - ⇒ Applying dust to head (Josh. 7:6)
 - ⇒ rending the heart (Joel 1:2-12, 13)
 - ⇒ Rending garments (1 Kgs. 21:27)
 - ⇒ making an oath (Acts 18:18)
 - ⇒ Fasting (Deut. 9:18)
 - ⇒ making sacrifices (Ps. 20:1-13)
 - ⇒ Sighing (Ez. 9:4)
 - ⇒ Groaning (Ps. 6:4-6)

**SO WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? FOLLOW CHRIST'S
PERFECT EXAMPLE!**

The posture, place, time or circumstance is not the issue of prayer. Prayer is to be a total way of life – an open communication with God which goes on all the time. And if prayer is a way of life, then we need to understand how to pray. This is precisely why Jesus teaches us this model prayer.

He puts it succinctly in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 “Pray without ceasing. (KJV)”

A modern spiritual Goliath was George Mueller. His life may be distilled down to these words he wrote in a diary:

It has pleased the Lord to teach me a truth, the benefit of which I have not lost for more than 14 years. The point is this: I saw more clearly than ever that the first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day was, to have my soul happy in the Lord. The first thing to be concerned about was not how much I might serve the Lord, or how I might glorify the Lord; but how I might get my soul into a happy state, and how my inner man might be nourished...Before this time my practice had been, at least for ten years previously, as a habitual thing, to give myself to prayer in the morning. Now I saw that the most important thing I had to do was to give myself to the reading of the Word of God, and to the meditation on it, that thus my heart might be comforted, encouraged, warned, reproved and instructed; and that thus, by means of the Word of God, while meditating on it, my heart might be brought into experimental communion with the Lord.¹

¹ Scroggie, Method in Prayer, pp.17-18.