



Pathways Weekly Reading & Prayer Guide

Week 7: Jesus' Teaching on Prayer

March 26 - April 2 • Pastor Mike Loudon

This week's lesson is on "Jesus' teaching on prayer." Normally one would think of the Lord's Prayer, but that will be a separate lesson for next week. This week's Pathways Prayer Guide looks at Jesus' personal prayers and his life of prayer. Communication with the Heavenly Father was as natural to Jesus as breathing. The four Gospels are filled with prayers of Jesus. This is a big subject, so I will merely suggest a few prayers of Jesus which might help us in our times of prayer this week.

Day 1- Mark 1:35-39; Mark 6:45-46; Luke 5:16

Jesus often retreated to quiet places in order to spend time in prayer. How often do you find a quiet place for reflection, meditation and prayer? Today might be a good day to begin that practice.

Day 2- Luke 9:28-30- The story of the Transfiguration

Jesus was spending time praying to the Heavenly Father when the transfiguration occurred. How does God transform us through prayer?

Day 3- John 11:38-44- The story of the raising of Lazarus

Jesus prayed thanking God the Father that He heard him and that the Lord was always near him and prayed that others would believe. He then called Lazarus to come forth from death to life...and he did. How did prayer play a part in Lazarus being raised from death?

Day 4- John 12:27-28 Prayer during the final week of his earthly life

Jesus was deeply troubled and prayed that God would save him from the coming hour. We are listening in this passage to Jesus' genuine anguish and the strength of his obedience as he conforms his life to the Father's will. Meditate on what his conforming to God's will means to you.

Day 5- John 17:1- 26 Jesus' High Priestly Prayer

This prayer gives us a glimpse into the heart of Jesus unlike any other chapter of the Gospels. It is the longest prayer that we have from Jesus. Jesus prays for himself, the disciples, and those who will be their disciples (us). Note Jesus' concern for the unity of his followers.

Day 6- Luke 22:39-46 The prayer of anguish in the Garden

Jesus prayed that God would remove the cup from him. The cup, of course, was the cross. Then he added "not my will but Thine be done." When you pour out your heart to God are you able to conclude "Father, not my will but Thine be done?"

Day 7- Luke 23:32-38 A Prayer from the Cross

Jesus' cry of forgiveness for those who were putting him to death. Are you able to pray for those who persecute you and hurt the Christian faith?

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Wisdom from Others****Book Suggested Readings**

Too Busy Not To Pray (Hybels) - Chapters 14

A Praying Life (Miller) - Chapters 22-25

Prayer (Yancey) - Chapters 13-14