

Introduction

1. Throughout His time on Earth, Jesus was frequently found in prayer to the Father.
 - a. Jesus understood the necessity of communicating with the Father during His sojourn on Earth.
2. An examination of when, how, and what Jesus prayed for will prove to be helpful for our own prayer life.
 - a. Remember that Christ is our example for all things ([Jn. 13:15](#); [Rm. 8:29](#)).

I. Jesus Prayed at the Entrance and Exit of His Ministry

1. Jesus prayed at the entrance of His ministry ([Lk. 3:21-22](#)).
 - a. Our ministry begins at baptism just like Jesus.
 - b. At baptism we become adopted children of God and thus heirs according to the promise ([Gal. 3:26-4:7](#)).
 - c. At baptism the line of communication with the Father opens up as we are now in the proper relationship with Him ([1 Pt. 1:22-23](#), [3:10-12](#)).
2. Jesus prayed at the exit of His ministry ([Lk. 23:46](#)).
 - a. Must I die with a prayer on my lips? Jesus did.
 - b. This prayer showed the full trust Jesus had in His Father while facing death ([Ps. 23](#)).
 - c. This prayer is a citation of [Psalm 31:5](#) showing Jesus also had Scripture on His mind and lips at death.

II. Jesus Prayed Recreationally

1. We need time between us and the Father alone ([Lk. 5:16](#); cf. [Mt. 14:23](#)).
 - a. Recreation is greatly needed in this fast-paced, cutthroat world.
 - b. We should appreciate the fact that God hears us in private places ([Mt. 6:6](#)).
 - c. Do not confuse entertainment for recreation.
2. We need a **time** and a **place** where we are free from distractions so that we can pour out our hearts to the Father ([Mk. 1:35](#); cf. [Ps. 62:8](#)).
 - a. Our cellphones can be a major distraction.

III. Jesus Prayed for His Apostles and for His Enemies

1. Jesus prayed for His apostles ([Lk. 6:12-16](#)).
 - a. Prior to selecting the twelve apostles Jesus spent all night in prayer.
2. Jesus prayed for His enemies ([Lk. 23:34](#)).
 - a. Jesus was practicing what He preached ([Lk. 6:27-28](#); cf. [Mt. 5:43-48](#), [6:14-15](#)).
 - b. This prayer began to be answered on the Day of Pentecost following the resurrection and ascension of Jesus ([Ac. 2:1](#), [38-42](#), [47](#)).

IV. Jesus Prayed for Physical Needs

1. Jesus prayed for the five loaves and two fishes which in turn fed a multitude ([Lk. 9:16](#); cf. [Jn. 6:11](#)).
 - a. There were even leftovers ([Lk. 9:17](#))!
2. Every creature of God is good, if it is received with thanksgiving ([1 Tim. 4:1-5](#)).
 - a. Do not forget to thank God for daily physical provisions ([Mt. 6:11](#)).
 - b. Jesus was in a position to pray for the multitude ([1 Tim. 2:1-4](#)).
3. Jesus knew all physical blessings come from God and that He should be thanked accordingly ([Mt. 6:31-34](#); [Jm. 1:17](#)).

V. Jesus Prayed Before Peter Confessed Him and Also Before Peter Denied Him

1. Jesus prayed before Peter confessed Him ([Lk. 9:18-20](#)).
 - a. In the context of this prayer is the church of Christ which Jesus promised to build ([Mt. 16:13-19](#)).
 - b. Jesus has since built His church by which entrance into it takes place through repentance and baptism ([Ac. 2:38-41](#), [47](#)).
 - c. Confession is also needed ([Ac. 8:37](#); [Rm. 10:9-10](#)).
2. Jesus prayed before Peter denied Him ([Lk. 22:31-32](#)).
 - a. We need to pray for each other that our faith will not fail.
 - b. Though Peter was ready in word he was not ready in action ([Lk. 22:33-34](#)).

VI. Jesus Prayed During the Peaks and During the Valleys

1. Jesus prayed at the mount of transfiguration ([Lk. 9:28-36](#)).
 - a. This was a definite high point or peak.
 - b. The transfiguration showed the necessity of listening to Christ ([Lk. 9:35](#)).
2. Jesus prayed in the shadow of a cross ([Lk. 22:39-44](#)).
 - a. This was a definite low point or valley.
 - b. Jesus prayed this prayer three times Matthew informs us ([Mt. 26:39](#), [42](#), [44](#)).
 - c. The result of this prayer was strength ([Lk. 22:43](#)).
 - d. We too must pray that God's will be done for our prayers to be effective ([1 Jn. 5:14-15](#); cf. [Jm. 4:13-15](#)).

Conclusion

1. Jesus was indeed prayerful.
2. The Father always heard Him ([Jn. 11:41-42](#)).
 - a. Reverence was key in Him being heard ([Heb. 5:5-9](#)).
 - b. We must remember why we are here as it relates to our prayer life ([Ecc. 12:13](#)).
3. May we seek to better emulate Jesus in our prayer life.