
Only Jesus

Part 3 – Praying Like Jesus

We follow Jesus to be with Him, so we might become like Him. This becomes the foundation for walking into breakthrough. When we surrender to Jesus, we find breakthrough.

Relational intimacy with Father God through Jesus and the power of His Holy Spirit at work in our lives then becomes of utmost importance to seeing breakthrough! This is achieved in part as we learn to pray like Jesus.

John 5:16-20 – Prayer was a lifeline to knowing and doing the Father's will and therefore Jesus prayed all the time.

Prayer for Jesus was Constant Conversation with the Father

If God was always at work and Jesus did nothing by Himself and only ever did what His Father was doing, then Jesus needed to be in constant conversation with God.

Prayer for Jesus, just like for us, became how He understood the Father's will, heard the Father's voice and was connected to the power source to make the difference He made (John 5:19). While Jesus had equal status with God, He didn't cling to the advantages of that status – in fact, He set aside all those privileges of deity and took on the status of a servant – He became human (Philippians 2:6-8).

Jesus clung to prayer like a lifeline; it gave Him both the guidance and the energy to know and do the Father's will.

Prayer becomes an opportunity to dialogue with God so we might know His will and His ways.

Essential to Jesus was the truth that the Father loves the Son and shows Him all He does. We also can have this confidence that as we enter into prayer (Matthew 6:6).

When we get alone with God in the secret place, there will be open answers to secret prayers.

Prayer for Jesus was Intimacy with the Father

Jesus's prayer life is characterised by how He came to the Father – Abba Father (Matthew 6:9-13; Mark 14:36)

We have the opportunity to be loved by God, by Abba, as much as Jesus was (John 17:23). The beauty of the Gospel is we are called into an intimate relationship with the creator of the universe where we would come to know Him as our 'Dad'.

It is in our weakness that we are made strong (2 Corinthians 12:9). It is in our uttering "Abba" that we truly pray in the way of a dependent child to a father (Romans 8:14-16), "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by Himself" (John 5:19).

Everybody will have had a different experience and understanding of what "father" means to them; in God we have a perfect Father (Matthew 5:48). Where earthly fathers are imperfect, our Heavenly Father loves us perfectly and completely.

Jesus believed and acted on the confidence that God answered His prayers. We, too, can have that same confidence. Once we understand the mind and heart of Jesus we then pray accordingly. Then when our prayers are being answered it will give us more confidence and boldness to pray for even greater things.

A Call to Prayer

Prayer may seem at first like disengagement, a reflective time to consider God's point of view. But the perspective gained from God's vantage point, presses us back to accomplish God's will, the work of the kingdom. We are God's fellow-workers, and as such we turn to prayer to equip us for the partnership.

In prayer we stand before God to plead our condition as well as the conditions around us. In the process, the act of prayer enables us and strengthens us to join the work of transforming the world into a place where the Father's will is done on earth as it is in heaven. We are Christ's body on earth, and to act as Christ's body we need an unbroken connection to the Head. We pray in order to see the world with God's eyes, and then to join the stream of power as it breaks loose.

Prayer for Jesus, just like for us, became how He understood the Father's will, heard the Father's voice and was connected to the power source to make the difference He made. Breakthrough comes as we align through prayer our will to the Father's will.

Opportunities for You to Pray with Others

- + Monday morning prayer in the Chapel 8-9am
- + Monday night Intercessors (fortnightly) 7.30pm @ Riverlife
- + Tuesday night Worship Room 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month 6-8pm
- + Wednesday morning prayer in the Chapel 7-8am
- + Wednesday mid-morning prayer in the Chapel 11.15am

Discussion Questions

1. Check out the following verses: (Luke 22:39; Luke 5:16; Luke 6:12-13; John 11:41-42; Luke 22:32; Matthew 26:36; Luke 23:34). What do you observe about the prayer life of Jesus from these verses?
2. What does it mean to you that Jesus is praying for you now? (Romans 8:34)
3. Read John 5:16-20. What strikes you most about this passage of scripture? How does it influence how you see prayer and your relationship with Father God?
4. If prayer becomes an opportunity to dialogue with God so we might know His will and His ways, how does this influence or affect your prayer life? What needs to change and what needs to stay?
5. It feels a little uncomfortable to call our Heavenly Father 'Daddy' (a bit like an adult calling their own earthly father 'Daddy'), yet this is an expression of intimate relationship. What could you do to increase your intimacy with Daddy God?
6. Here's a suggestion: put some worship music on and as it plays, use Brennan Manning's breathing prayer: as you breathe in, say the word "Abba..." and as you breathe out, speak the phrase "I belong to You."