

Introduction:

- *"One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up."* (Luke 18:1, NLT)
- *"You know the value of prayer: it is precious beyond all price. Never, never neglect it."* Sir Thomas Buxton Excerpt From: Edward Bounds. "Power Through Prayer." iBooks.

I. Jesus Prayed

A. The life example of Jesus is that prayer was on top of the list of things He did.

1. Prayed early in the morning: *"Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray."* (Mark 1:35, NLT) His disciples found Him in the place of prayer
2. Prayed after work: *"After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone."* (Matthew 14:23, NLT) Not only did he pray after work he prayed so long that the sun went down.
3. Prayed all night: *"One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night."* (Luke 6:12, NLT)
4. Prayed while facing stress and death: *"Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, "Sit here while I go over there to pray.""* (Matthew 26:36, NLT)
5. Prayed with His closest friends: *"About eight days later Jesus took Peter, John, and James up on a mountain to pray."* (Luke 9:28, NLT)
6. He taught the people and His disciples to pray: Mt 5:44; 6:5-9
 - a) Pray for those who persecute you.
 - b) Pray in the secret place not in the places to be seen.
 - c) Pray to your heavenly Father.
 - d) Here is how to pray: Lords prayer. (Also in response to disciple request: teach us to pray)
 - e) Pray for the harvest
 - f) Pray for the children.
 - g) Prayer is something we always do and never grow tired of. Luke 18:1

B. What do we learn from Jesus praying?

1. Prayer was important to Him. Jesus saw prayer as the life line to heaven. It was the expression of His relationship to the Father and the Father to Him. You have to have communication to have a relationship. He was never too busy to pray!
2. Prayer is crucial to big decisions. He prayed all night before choosing His 12.
3. Prayer prepared Him and empowered Him to move mountains (do ministry).
 - a) Jesus would pray 5 hours in the morning for 60 seconds of demon ousting in the after noon.
 - b) Jesus was so close to the Father in prayer that the presence "rub off on Him." The church today spends a few minutes with God in preparation for many hours of work. "Hours with God makes minutes with men effective." Myles Monroe
4. Prayer is something that Jesus wants us all to do, as well.

II. The Church Prayed

A. 120 in the upper room prayed for 10 days waiting for the gift of God to be given. 1:14

1. Acts 4:31 the church is praying for boldness the place is shaken.
2. 6:4 Deacons selected so that the Apostles could pray and teaching the Word.
- B. Peter is in Lydda and raise a lame man up. Word spreads and Peter is called upon to go to Joppa to raise a dead woman.
 1. *"But Peter asked them all to leave the room; then he knelt and prayed. Turning to the body he said, "Get up, Tabitha." And she opened her eyes! When she saw Peter, she sat up!"* (Acts 9:40, NLT) He prays and she rises.
 2. While in Joppa, he is praying again, on top of a roof. Acts 10:9.
 - a) *"Then Peter told them exactly what had happened. "I was in the town of Joppa," he said, "**and while I was praying**, I went into a trance and saw a vision. Something like a large sheet was let down by its four corners from the sky. And it came right down to me."* (Acts 11:4-5, NLT)
- C. *"But while Peter was in prison, **the church prayed very earnestly for him.**"* (Acts 12:5, NLT)
 1. Peter is in prison. I find it calming that the angel had to awaken him from a deep sleep.
 2. As he awaits trial the church prays!
 - a) An angel shows up.
 - b) The chains fall off.
 - c) Peter gets dressed.
 - d) Cell door opens.
 - e) They walk passed the guards...first and second guard posts.
 - f) Iron gate opens
 3. Verse 12 they are gathered for prayer and Peter knocks at the door.

III. We Must Pray

- A. We must follow the pattern of the Jesus and the early church.
 1. Jesus: *"One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up."* (Luke 18:1, NLT)
 2. Paul: *"Never stop praying."* (1 Thessalonians 5:17, NLT)
- B. We pray that we may know Him: *"I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death,"* (Philippians 3:10, NLT)
 1. This would be the ultimate in prayer! To know Him.
 2. Mt 6:33 Seek first the Kingdom! The King of the Kingdom!
 3. Satan will do everything in his power to stop you from doing that. He will fight the idea. He will fight every practical step you take. He hates it when men pray.
 4. Therefore we must exercise endurance! *"By perseverance the snail reached the ark."* Charles Spurgeon. Prayer requires perseverance. Luke 18