

Introduction:

- Prayer I read recently: Dear Lord, So far today God, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped; I haven't lost my temper; I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or over indulgent. I am really glad about that! But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot of help. Amen
- I want to look at Jesus' prayer life once again.
 - He has already prayed.
 - He moves into prayer.
 - He forever lives to make intercession.
- I find Jesus' prayer life very encouraging! How many would be encouraged to know that Jesus has already prayed for you....shown you have to find grace to overcome... and know that His prayer continues through eternity!

I. Jesus Already Prayed

- A. Jesus has already prayed. *""Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.""* (Luke 22:31-32, ESV)
1. Note that Jesus had already prayed. Prayed is in the past tense. He had already talked to God before an event 'went down.'
 2. Often in the place of prayer Jesus will show you things that will come/or give you and impression of things to come. APT 1 is not just about sharing a word with others but it is also about learning the different ways God speaks to you so that you learn to trust in your ability to hear Him.
 3. Jesus had seen, or felt Peter faltering/dwindling in his faith. From that He prays: that his faith would not fail and that when it is strengthened once again, he would strengthen others.
- B. I believe we will all be sifted at some point in our Christian faith.
1. If something is sifted it is shaken. IE. Sifting small rocks from bigger ones. I made a sieve that would allow small rocks to fall out thus preserving the bigger ones which I was after. Satan desired to shake Peter up, actually to shake his faith and get him into a place of doubt and unbelief. A place of believing a lie instead of truth.
 2. The sifting is a test of faith. How much will we really trust God. Note to self: Satan is doing the sifting. Do not blame God.
 3. Job 1. Job was hedged in from Satan. Satan asks to have access to Job to sift him. Satan was after Job's faith because faith made Job an overcomer. God knew that Job would overcome. He knows that you will overcome as well because you are in Christ Jesus.

- C. He has already prayed for us. Jesus had already prayed for Peter and He has already prayed for us. *“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,”* (John 17:20, ESV)
1. His prayer is that we would all be one with Him as He is one with the Father.
 2. If He has overcome, my being in Him should give me courage in overcoming as well.
 3. Jesus has already prayed! Done!

II. Jesus Goes Out to Pray

- A. As was His custom. *“And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” And he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.””* (Luke 22:39-42, ESV)
Pray is present active tense. Do it now and don’t stop!
- B. Custom! What a powerful word when considering the place of prayer.
1. Gr. ethos - habit, common practice.
 2. Jesus has a prayer habit! It is a common practice in his life/customary.
 3. When the pressure is on Jesus will be moving in the spiritual practice he knows best...prayer! Talking with the Father.
- C. In prayer Jesus finds grace and willingness. Now, if Jesus, the perfect picture of a perfect man, had to find grace to overcome temptation—How much more we need to do the same.
1. In prayer Jesus found grace. Jesus drew near by prayer to God and would come out a victorious overcomer.
 - a) Faced with trials Jesus was moved to pray. *“But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.”* (Hebrews 2:9, ESV)
 - b) Pressure pushed Him into the arms of God. *“It does not matter how great the pressure is. What really matters is where the pressure lies -- whether it comes between you and God, or whether it presses you nearer His heart.”* Hudson Taylor, Missionary to China.
 - c) In prayer Jesus found grace. *“...by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone!”*
 2. In grace, Jesus found willingness.
 - a) Jesus found grace in prayer to overcome. *“...by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone!”*

- b) The disciples slept. They did not find grace (the ability of God) and they were overcome by temptation and scattered.
- 3. In willingness, Jesus overcame temptation. Is not temptation about our will/ bringing our will into conformity with His.
 - a) Luke 4:1-14. Jesus is lead by the Spirit into the wilderness to fast and pray...40 days. Satan comes with three 'ifs' - question of identity.
 - b) After the scourging of Jesus...He again is incredibly weak and vulnerable. We see Satan coming again to tempt Him (an opportune time Lk 4:13)

III. Jesus Lives Forever To Pray He is doing this right now!

- A. God is for us and not against us. *"Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them."* (Hebrews 7:25, ESV)
 - 1. Because He now lives forever as a High priest He is forever making intercession for us.
 - 2. Priests who represented the people to God would die. Their work done. But our High Priest always lives to make intercession.
 - 3. Intercession - to hit a target, to do the right thing...for us!
- B. We have One who speaks with the Father on our behalf. *"My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."* (1 John 2:1, ESV)
 - 1. An advocate represents us to the Father.
 - 2. He does the talking for us.
- C. Constant in prayer is prayer that moves into our future.
 - 1. 1 Thes 5:17 We are to pray without ceasing.
 - 2. Luke 18:1 Always pray and not lose heart.

Conclusion:

- When we look at Jesus' life of prayer we need to note:
 - He has already prayed...how about you?
 - He goes out to pray to get grace.
 - He forever lives to pray/make intercession.
- May our prayer lives be fashioned around this as well.