

Jesus' Prayed

When I look at Jesus' life recorded in Luke, I see a man who prayed often and God answered his prayers.

Example 1

Luke 3:21-22 NIV

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Example 2

Luke 6:12-19 NIV

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

Example 3

Luke 9:16-17 NIV

Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

Example 4

Luke 9:28-35 NIV

About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.) While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him."

What we all want

I've never met a follower of Jesus who claimed to have prayer figured out. In fact, just this week one of the most disciplined prayer warriors I know admitted that he feels like he's just starting to learn how to pray. We want God to answer our prayers as he did for Jesus, don't we?

We aren't the first to want God to answer our prayers as he did for Jesus.

Luke 11:1-13 NIV

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: "'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.' And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need. "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Sermon in a Sentence:

Want God to answer your prayers as he did for Jesus? Then pray like Jesus!

How did he pray?

- Establish the right pattern and priorities
 1. Recognize your relationship with God
 2. Request God to be known & honored
 3. Surrender to his authority and reign
 4. Declare your dependence on His provision and care
 5. Forgive and seek forgiveness
 6. Request protection from spiritual forces of evil
- Present your requests persistently This is tied to the next part of Jesus' answer.
- Believe God's promise to answer
 1. "Keep on asking. Keep on seeking. Keep on knocking."
 2. Why? Not because God is asleep in bed or waiting for more supplies.
 3. Then why? Because answering prayer is more complicated than we think. Details to work out; demons to defeat; stubborn streaks in us to deal with

- Trust God because you're persuaded of his love, power and wisdom

A New View of Prayer

Do you approach prayer as a last ditch attempt to maintain your comfort and security? Have you asked God to control the things that are beyond your control? Prayer's primary purpose is to connect you with God in a loving relationship. The secondary purpose is to promote the expansion of God's kingdom in your world. When God's kingdom comes everything changes.

We can pray like Jesus

We can watch God heal the sick, raise the dead and give people like us a real, intimate, growing relationship with God. All it takes is a shift from seeking our comfort and security to seeking to know God better.