

The Weapon of Prayer

6-11-17

4. The Decision to Pray John 17:18

1. Jesus prayed for those He loved

John 17:15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. (protection) **v16** They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. (life, God's way) **v17** Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. (set apart by the Word)

- a. Prayer is an appeal to God to intervene in life's affairs for the good of those for whom we pray
- b. Prayerlessness leaves man as the mere creature of circumstances at the mercy of blind fate without help of any kind from God

2. Jesus prayed for individuals

Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. **v32** But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." (Jesus prayed for others to change circumstances)

- a. God has ordained prayer and since prayer involves people and has no existence apart from people then logically people's prayers are the one force that puts God to work in human affairs
- b. Nothing is done well without prayer for the simple reason that it leaves God out of the work

3. Jesus loved and prayed for those others had no use for

Matthew 19:13 Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. **v14** But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." **Mark 10:16** And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them. (everyone is important to Jesus)

- a. Prayer is indispensable to God's work in this world and it is essential to getting God to work in earth's affairs
- b. Without prayer man is left with the tremendous responsibilities and difficult problems of the world with all of its sorrows and burdens and afflictions without any God at all

4. Jesus prays for all those who will believe and be saved

John 17:20 "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me because of their testimony. NLT (Jesus died and rose to create the church and prays for every believer then and now in order for there to be power and unity in His church)

- a. Jesus committed the destiny of the church to people of prayer
- b. God's cause does not suffer because of lack of divine ability but because of lack of prayer

5. Jesus prayed to prepare Himself for the day ahead

Mark 1:35 The next morning Jesus awoke long before daybreak and went out alone into the wilderness to pray. **v36** Later Simon and the others went out to find him. **v37** They said, "Everyone is asking for you." **v38** But he replied, "We must go on to other towns as well, and I will preach to them, too, because that is why I came." NLT (prayer prepares you for the day)

- a. Prayer brings God into the world to work, save and bless
- b. God is restrained from doing because we are restrained by our failure to pray

6. Jesus prayed all night, received wisdom to choose His Apostles

Luke 6:12 Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. **v13** And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles: (prayer gave Jesus direction in decisions He needed to make)

- a. Praying men and women are essential to God in all His plans and purposes
- b. God's plans, secrets and cause have never been committed to prayerless people

7. Jesus' prayer replenished the anointing of the Holy Spirit on Him to minister powerfully

Luke 6:17 And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, **v18** as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. **v19** And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all. (prayer replenishes the power of the Holy Spirit)

- a. Prayer is an appeal to God to intervene in life's affairs for the good of those for whom we pray
- b. Prayerlessness excludes God from the world's affairs and prevents Him from working

8. Jesus taught us to be persistent in prayer

Luke 18:1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, (never quit, demonic resistance can be broken by persistence)

- a. Brave, strong fearless and insistent prayer is successful prayer
- b. In view of this, the question can be asked if Christians are praying

9. Jesus prayed for strength during His greatest trial

Luke 22:44 And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. (prayer brings the Lord's help in any circumstance)

- a. All heaven has and all its help are for people who pray
- b. Redemption for mankind depends on prayer