

August 21, 2011

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Monday

Mark 1:35 In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there.

If Jesus, God the Son, made a habit of personal prayer, you must surely understand that you cannot make it through life or make an impact in life without the same practice. The term for "praying" indicates a prayer of length and depth. That is why it is translated "He *was* praying" instead of just "He prayed." God is not merely looking for a text message or a tweet. A short "God is great, God is good, let us thank Him for our food," cannot be the prayer life of a growing disciple. Take time to pray. Make time to pray. Learn to pray. Start right now; be intentional in prayer!

Tuesday

Mark 9:29 And He said to them, "This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer."

The difficult issues of life find answer only in prayer. You may be able to 'figure out' the easy stuff. God gave you intelligence. You may be able to come up with a solution for the normal stuff. God granted you creativity. But the hard stuff of life, the difficult situations, the unexplainable events of living will find answer or contentment only in prayer. Believers have always understood this truth, even if they have not persistently acted upon it. Prayer is the key to a life of contentment. Prayer is strength in a life filled with trials. Take time to pray: to tell God of your heart and to listen, to listen to His heart. Make the time right now to thank God that He allows you access to His ear by the wonderful mercy and sacrifice of Jesus.

Wednesday

Mark 13:18 "But pray that it may not happen in the winter."

Prayer should not merely be the cry of a saint in trouble. Prayer should be the daily habit of the saint in love with the Savior. Prayer is about preparing the soul for life, now and future. Go before the throne of God today and allow your heart to pray. Think, aided by the Holy Spirit, of the needs not merely of the moment, but of your church, your mission, your spiritual walk. Ask God to reveal to you the things of which *He desires* for you to pray. Read a portion of scripture and then pray a prayer based upon your reading. No longer allow your prayers to be a list of 'gimmies': gim' me this and gim' me that.

Thursday

Mark 14:38 "Keep watching and praying that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

At the most pivotal moment in Jesus' ministry and mission His instruction to the disciples was to "keep watching and praying." He knew what they were to face even when they did not. He knew the answer to their needs even when they were unaware of those needs. Perhaps developing a persistent, personal prayer life is the most important answer to temptation and to stress. A daily time with God, in which you are growing devotionally, brings strength, insight, and power. The importance of this time cannot be overestimated for the man or woman of God. Make a new commitment to spend time each day in a time of intentional prayer.

Friday

Mark 14:32 They came to a place named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here until I have prayed."

Bill Hybels wrote: "From birth we have been learning the rules of self-reliance as we strain and struggle to achieve self-sufficiency. Prayer flies in the face of those deep-seated values. It is an assault on human autonomy, an indictment of independent living. To people in the fast lane, determined to make it on their own, prayer is an embarrassing interruption." He is right. Prayer is the ultimate statement of humility. It is an admission of our utter dependence upon God. God calls upon you to humble yourself and pray, and seek His face. (2 Chronicles 7:14)