

An Attempt To Listen To God

Meditations on
The Prayers of The Lord For Others

By

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Introduction

During His sojourn in this vale of tears there is recorded 17 references, of which I am aware, of the Lord praying or parables having to do with prayer. These are subdivided under five headings:

- 1) His Prayers at Major Junctions In His Life
 - a) When he was being baptised and about to launch into His life's work. (Lk. 3:21)
 - b) The choosing of the twelve. (Lk. 6:12)
 - c) When He was about to question the disciples who the people said He was. (Lk. 9:18)
 - d) His transfiguration. (Lk. 9:29)
 - e) When in the darkness of Gethsemane, when the hour of crisis was approaching. (Matt. 26:39-44)
- 2) His Prayers For Himself
 - a) "Father . . . glorify thy Son." (Jn. 17:1)
 - b) "Father, glorify Thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." (Jn. 17:5)
 - c) For His resurrection (Heb. 5:7)
- 3) His Prayers Of Declaration
 - a) "I have glorified Thee on the earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do." (Jn. 17:4)
(Paul could say I have run the race, and finished my course, but this is away beyond that. This was not a boasting, but an honest reflection.)
- 4) His Prayers At Miracles
 - a) He prayed before the presentation of food. "Jesus . . . when He had given thanks". (Jn. 6:11)
(This was when He fed the 5000)
 - b) The healing of multitudes. (Mk. 1:35)
 - c) Healing the deaf mute. (Mk. 7:34)
 - d) At the raising of Lazarus. (Jn. 11:41)
- 5) His Teaching Of Prayer In Parables
 - a) The parable of the inopportune friend. (Lk. 11:5-10)
 - b) The Publican and the Pharisee. (Lk. 18:9-14)
 - c) The requests of the son to the father. (Matt. 7:7-11)
 - d) The widow and unjust judge. (Lk. 18:1-8)
 - e) On the theme of forgiveness. (Mk. 11:25)
- 6) His Prayers In Dire Situations
 - a) He prayed when surrounded by those who hated Him. (Lk. 23:34)
 - b) He prayed when surrounded by mockers: "Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again". (1 Pet. 2:23)
 - c) When God was silent and He in deep aloneness, in His hour of desolation. (Matt. 27:46; Mk. 15:34)
 - d) When He was about to enter death. (Lk. 23:46)
- 7) Praying For Others
 - a) The Lord's intercessory prayer over Jerusalem. (Matt. 23:37-39)
 - b) For those who rejected and crucified Him. (Lk. 23:34)

He Prayed Being Aware Of The Need Of Others, For They Did Not Realize The Need

He prayed for others:

- 1) For the eleven. (Jn. 17:6-19)
- 2) For all the saints of a future time. (Jn. 17:20-26)

This is, without a doubt, one of the loveliest and most comforting truths relative to the Lord praying. Thank God He knows what lies ahead of each of us, and thank God it is hidden from our eyes. Simon had no idea of his weakness but the Lord did. It is against the background of strife and positioning in the kingdom the Lord says: "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not" (Lk. 22:31). Then Peter makes his declarations of loyalty (Lk. 22:33). This is followed by the Lord telling him how soon and how often He would fall (Lk. 22:34). The Lord did not call him Peter but repeated: "Simon, Simon", his name before he met the Lord. The Lord knew not only the situation Peter was to face but the activity of Satan toward him. Peter failed in his confession but never wavered in his faith of who Christ was, because before the storm ever came, the Lord had prayed for him.

The saints are divided on every hand. In many churches internal friction, despite hypocritical frozen smiles, the saints are splitting apart. While the government of his Satanic Majesty cannot destroy the corporate church, he can wreak havoc in the local church and thus the Lord prayed.

In His High priestly prayer He prayed:

- 1) "Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom Thou hast given me, that they may be one."
(Jn. 17:11)
- 2) "That Thou shouldest keep them from the evil." (Jn.17:15)
- 3) "Sanctify them through Thy truth." (Jn. 17:17)
- 4) "That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in me, and I in Thee, that they may be one in us."
(Jn.17:21)

He prayed for that which is still before us when released from this vale of tears.

- 1) "Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, that Thou hast given me." (Jn. 17:24)

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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