

Our scrip is one of many that record Jesus praying. Central to being a man of God: Prayer.

I. OUR LORD'S PRAYING

A. Jesus was God in the flesh: He lived as a man

1. He demonstrated how to be an effective man of God

a. A man of God needs supernatural power! You cannot approach ministry simply in the natural

1. Mark 1:32 At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed.

b. Supernatural opposition/bondages/strategies/problems

1. Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

B. Jesus modeled how to be an effective man of God

1. A man of God must be a man of prayer: It was central to Jesus' ministry/discipleship

a. Scripture records Jesus praying: Before dawn/on mountain alone/all night before choosing disciples, praying for sick, praying for provision, praying for deliverance, prayed before shift in ministry, prayed in the garden (trial)

b. Jesus taught how to pray (Lord's prayer – for disciples!)

c. He taught on the importance of prayer

1. Focus of the church (house of prayer) 2. Duty: Will he find faith on the earth (still praying?)

3. The releasing of the will of God (pray for laborers) 4. The need for power

a. Mark 9:29 So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."

C. We need to see what prayer is

1. Prayer is connecting powerless men to All-powerful God

a. Matthew 6:10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

1. I need what you have – where I live/where I minister!

2. You have to believe in prayer – believe what God says about prayer

a. Things can change if I pray: They will only change if I pray

1. Men who believe, pray. Men who don't believe, don't pray.

II. OUR PRAYING

A. We have to see how central prayer is to ministry

1. Our scripture shows us the rhythm and the temptation of ministry

a. Need – and need for action: Mark 1:34 Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.

2. We can be tempted to focus on action: That's what ministry is...NO!

a. We minister to people in prayer: We Pastor people through prayer

1. Galatians 4:19 My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,

3. There must be spiritual recharging in ministry

a. Mark 1:35 Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

1. I can't help people/minister effectively unless I pray

B. 2 elements of the prayer of a man of God

1. Prayer must be known: Mark 1:35 *Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.*

a. Obviously people knew about it! Not a performance – look at me

b. We lead people in prayer: They need to know that you pray (even if you pray privately)

1. Example/teaching/spirit...

2. Prayer must be private: Mark 1:35 *Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.*

a. If your only praying is with others – it won't be enough!

1. Lifestyle: We get alone with God/we seek God – somehow/somewhere

b. Personal equipping/private battles/current problems/dominion

C. The Devil fears prayer – He will try and sidetrack you from prayer

1. Mark 14:37-38 Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

a. Tiredness/distraction/incorrect emphasis/demonic assault

2. We must be men of prayer!