
THEMATIC STUDY

Choose a theme

The Prayers of Jesus

List of references

1. Matthew 6:9-13
2. Matthew 11:25-26
3. Matthew 27:46
4. Mark 14:36
5. Luke 23:34
6. Luke 23:46
7. John 11:41-43
8. John 12:27-28
9. John 17:1-26

Questions to be asked

- a. Under what circumstances did Jesus pray?
- b. For what did he pray?
- c.
- d.
- e.

Answers to Questions

Scripture Reference: Matthew 6:9-13

- a. Jesus was asked by his disciples how they should pray, so he took the time to give them this prayer as a model.
- b. There are 6 petitions in this prayer. 3 are directed toward God and 3 are personal.

God Directed Petitions	Personal Petitions
May your name be made holy - An act of reverence, honor, and respect to God	Give me my daily sustenance - Recognizes my dependence on God to provide daily sustenance
May your kingdom come - Recognizes God's goal and seeks to align self to those goals	Forgive me my sins - Recognizes my dependence on God to provide eternal redemption
May your will be done - Recognize God's perspective and seeks to trust that He does know best.	Keep me from temptation - Plea for the providential help of God in my daily confrontation with the temptation of sin

- c.
- d.
- e.

Scripture Reference: Matthew 11:25-26

- a. As Jesus was preaching and teaching, he breaks into a short prayer. Then, he continues his teaching.
- b. Prayer of appreciation to God. Includes the honor to "Father, Lord of heaven and earth." It appears as if Jesus is using this public prayer as a teaching moment. He employs sarcasm as he identifies the Jewish leaders as wise and prudent (but ignorant of who Jesus is) while he calls his followers little children. He ends by acknowledging the

sovereignty of God and affirming that he trusts God's way.

c.

d.

e.

Answers to Questions

Scripture Reference: Matthew 27:46

- a. While he was on the cross experiencing the abandonment and despair that resulted from him bearing the sins of the world, he yells this bit of scripture.
- b. A single wail of quoted scripture seeking to understand why. Even though he knew (in his head), his spirit still cried out to God in time of great need.
- c.
- d.
- e.

Scripture Reference: Mark 14:36

- a. As he was in the Garden of Gethsemane, immediately prior to his death, he petitions God for another way.
- b. He knew it was in the realm of God's omnipotence to provide an alternate plan of Salvation. However, he also

noted that if in God's omniscience, God chose not to provide an alternate plan, then Jesus was resolved to do the will of God.

c.

d.

e.

Answers to Questions

Scripture Reference: Luke 23:34

- a. While on the cross, he prays this prayer to God.
- b. Jesus petitions God not to hold his tormentors responsible for their actions because they were deluded.
- c.
- d.
- e.

Scripture Reference: Luke 24:46

- a. While on the cross, he shouts scripture to God.

b. A single shout of quoted scripture. This is an acclamation that Jesus is willfully offering himself to God (Hebrews 9:14). His life is not being taken from him, but he is giving it up.

c.

d.

e.

Answers to Questions

Scripture Reference: John 11:41-43

a. As he raises Lazarus from the dead, he prays this prayer.

b. This is not a prayer of petition, but a prayer of thanksgiving. The reason for this miracle was to authenticate his claims to be the Messiah and the Son of God. The successful completion of the miracle verified his claim and he is thanking God (prior to the verification) for verifying it.

c.

c.

d.

e.

Scripture Reference: John 12:27-28

- a. As Jesus is teaching right before his death, he is becoming anxious and agitated. While he is teaching, he expresses his anxiety and lifts this very short request that God be glorified. He actually says something to the effect that, “I have a choice. I could ask my Father to save me, but I’m not going to do that.”
- b. This request exemplifies the life that Jesus lived. He is reinforcing the principle he wants to live by (and in this case) the principle by which he will die.
- c.
- d.
- e.

Answers to Questions

Scripture Reference: John 17:1-26

- a. As Jesus is walking from the upper room to the Garden, he is giving his disciples a “Last Lecture” speech. This is similar to the speech my parents gave me the night before I left for college. During this teaching, Jesus begins praying to God.
- b. This is the longest prayer we have recorded of Jesus. He weaves in and out of several topics.
 - He prays for himself (1-5)
 - He prays that he will glorified so that God can be glorified
 - He affirms that his authority has come from God.
 - He asks that God return him to his status prior to coming to the Earth.
 - He prays for his disciples (6-19)
 - Affirms that the disciples belonged to God, but were given into his care.
 - Petitions God to take care of them now that he is leaving them.
 - He prays for all believers (20-26)
 - Asks God to keep all believers unified.

- Prays for their mission in this world.
- Prays for their final reunification with God and Jesus.

c.

d.

e.

Conclusions

These are the **public** prayers of Jesus. Very little is recorded of the content of Jesus' frequent prayers to the Father (Matthew 14:23, Luke 5:16).

	Matt. 6:9-13	Matt. 11:25-26	Matt. 27:46	Mark 14:36	Luke 23:34	Luke 23:46	John 11:41-43	John 12:27-28	John 17:1-26
Type of Prayer	Petition	Thanks-giving	Petition	Petition	Petition	Petition	Thanks-giving	Petition	Petition
Circumstances of Prayer	During Teaching	During Teaching	During a Trial	During a Trial	During a Trial	During a Trial	During a Miracle	During Teaching	During Teaching
Object of Prayer	God Self	God	Self	Self	Others	God	God	God	Self God Others
Content	Own Words	Own Words	Scripture	Own Words	Scripture	Own Words	Own Words	Own Words	Own Words
Addressed to	Father	Father, Lord of heaven and earth	My God, My God	Abba (Daddy) Father	Father	Father	Father	Father	Father

With the exception of the model prayer, each of these prayers is an impromptu expression of emotion. None of them appear to be planned, but seem to just burst forth.

The prayers vary in length, but the majority is very short. This conforms to Christ's teaching about prayer (Matthew 6:7). It would appear that prosy, sermonizing prayers are uncalled for and out of place in public, while short prayers, offered in fervor and faith appear to soften the hearts of the hearers. I know this is true because when I am listening to a long prayer, I become impatient, wishing that every word might end it.

The prayers are surprisingly straightforward and easy to understand. He who strives for eloquent language when praying is entirely out of place. The eloquence that God accepts is the earnest, longing cry of the soul which feels that it must have help.

Long, articulate prayers are not essential. As the Word of God assures us, it is not the length or expressiveness of prayer that makes it effective. It is "the prayer of a righteous man" that "is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).

Homework

Application

When I pray in public I must remember that I am to pray from the heart. Because I am afraid of making a fool of myself publically, I usually write my prayers out prior to praying in public. As Erin reminds me, I need to just be myself and pray from heart.

The next time I scheduled to offer the prayer of thanksgiving, I will not write out my prayer, but just express the contents of my heart in no more than 60 seconds.