

Welcome to the ekklesia fellowship!

Fellowship *with* the Father Jesus, Teach Me to Pray

October 2, 2005

Jesus, Teach Me to Pray

Lincoln once got caught up in a situation where he wanted to please a politician, so he issued a command to transfer certain regiments.

When the secretary of war, Edwin Stanton, received the order, he refused to carry it out. He said that the President was a fool.

Lincoln was told what Stanton had said, and he replied, "If Stanton said I'm a fool, then I must be, for he is nearly always right. I'll see for myself."

As the two men talked, the President quickly realized that his decision was a serious mistake, and without hesitation he withdrew it.

Jesus, Teach Me to Pray

"Humility does not mean thinking less of yourself than of other people, nor does it mean having a low opinion of your own gifts. It means freedom from thinking about yourself one way or the other at all."

—William Temple, *Christ in His Church*

When Hudson Taylor was introduced as, "our illustrious guest"

he stood quietly for a moment, and then opened his message by saying, "Dear friends, I am the little servant of an illustrious Master."

Jesus, Teach Me to Pray

Humility – *is the path to learning.*

- Micah 6:3 – "and walk humbly with your God"
- James 4:6 – "gives grace to the humble"
- 1 Peter 5:6 – "humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God"

Paul:

- "I am the least of the apostles" 1 Corinthians 15:9
- "I am the very least of all the saints" Ephesians 3:8
- "I am the foremost of sinners" 1 Timothy 1:15

Jesus, Teach Me to Pray

Luke 11:1 – "Lord, teach us to pray"

Jesus' disciples realized that there was a direct correlation between Jesus' amazing presence and His prayer life.

Look at our lives today... something, or someone is missing!

The brutal fact is that we do not know how to pray, either as individuals or as a church body.

The proof can be found in and all around us!

Discouragement, anxiety, fear, guilt, lust, gossip, complaining, and despair... all fruit of the flesh! (Rom 8)

We are far too fixated on ourselves, and not on Him.

Lord Jesus, teach us here tonight to pray!

Jesus, Teach Me to Pray

Hebrews 12:1-2 – "Looking away unto Jesus"

Let's take a look at the Master's prayer life.

1. Prayer was of absolute necessity—more important than the very air He breathed (everything!)

- Luke 5:16 – "often"
- Luke 6:12 – "went off to the mountain"
- Luke 9:18 – "alone"
- "I've got too much to do today to take time to pray..."
- "I have so much to do today, I need to spend an extra hour in prayer!" –Martin Luther
- If all else fails, pray!

Jesus, Teach Me to Pray

Hebrews 12:1-2 – “Looking away unto Jesus”

Let's take a look at the Master's prayer life.

1. Prayer was of absolute necessity—more important than the very air He breathed (everything!)
 - Our biggest problem is one of self-sufficiency! (Luke 5:8)
 - It's all about me, it's all about I, it's all about number one!
 - Continual, intimate prayer *maintained* Jesus through the calm days and *sustained* Him during the impossible days!
 - Want a sandwich?

Lord Jesus, teach us to pray!

Jesus, Teach Me to Pray

Hebrews 12:1-2 – “Looking away unto Jesus”

Let's take a look at the Master's prayer life.

2. Jesus never once took His eyes off His Father!
 - Jesus did absolutely nothing – of Himself (John 5:19, 30)
 - This isn't a special case, this is the norm for every disciple.
 - Pray or faint (lose heart) are the only two options (Luke 18:1)
 - “Pray without ceasing” 1 Thess. 5:17
 - John 14:12 – “greater than these shall he do...”
 - “Lord, I can't do anything apart from You. Father, would you please do this through me.”

Jesus, Teach Me to Pray

Hebrews 12:1-2 – “Looking away unto Jesus”

Let's take a look at the Master's prayer life.

2. Jesus never once took His eyes off His Father!
 - On what do we rely?
 - Organizations?
 - Education?
 - Money?
 - Self?
 - Why don't you try to rely on prayer and see what the Great Who of Romans 7:24 can do!

Jesus, teach us to pray, teach us our absolute dependency on You for everything, teach us to turn to You first, not last, teach us to pray without ceasing!