

Read Luke 5.12-16

We looked at the last two verses in study 1 but here we have another example of someone crying out to Jesus and so being an example to of in prayer.

14. Here again we are seeing an example of strong emotion or fervency in prayer. What do the man's actions, and the words Luke uses, show about his attitude as he approached Jesus? (Note the different translations.)

15. Do you ever pray in this way and, if so, in what situations?

Pray

Pray for our Christmas services and celebrations coming up. Pray for opportunities to speak to people of the significance of Christ's coming, the opportunity to invite people to services, and in our services the truth about Christ would be presented clearly in worship, word and deed.

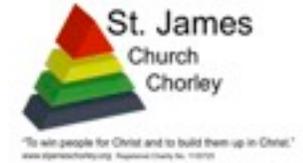
Pray for those who are ill at this time and particularly for those members of our church who through sickness or infirmity are no longer able to attend services.

Pray that we might be more like Epaphras (Col 4.12), agonising in prayer on behalf of others, and pray for one another that you might each "stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God".

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Teach us to Pray

Prayer in Luke's Gospel Week 4



Fervent Prayer

Read Luke 22.39-46

1. Going into a garden to pray sounds very pleasant, but what different things do we see from Luke's record that show us the real mood in the Garden of Gethsemane?

2. Jesus prayed apart from the other disciples, yet we learn from Matthew and Luke that Jesus expected them to pray as well and indeed told them to do so. Why is it an encouragement to pray with others, even if not necessarily being together at the time? Do you find praying in a group encouraging or distracting?

3. What is it about what Jesus did in the garden that shows His fervency in prayer?

4. Read **James 5.16-17**. In this series we have seen the dangers of praying for show, but what do you think it means to pray fervently (or earnestly depending upon your translation)? Is there a danger of us being too English and reserved in prayer?

5. From the following passages what examples do we see of what might be called fervent prayer, what prompted it and how was it expressed or shown?

- **1 Samuel 1. 10-13**

- **Psalm 61.1-2**

- **Colossians 4.12** (literally it translates as “agonising” in prayer)

“Your will”

6. The most famous part of Jesus’ prayer in the garden is when he said. “nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” When we say “your will be done” in the Lord’s prayer, as Jesus taught us, what do you normally mean?

7. We can repeat Jesus’ words in the garden, but what was it about His situation that makes them so striking and in what situations is it more difficult for us to say them yet really mean them?

8. Are there other ways in which we express a similar sentiment in prayer? We might often close a prayer with something like submitting ourselves to God’s will, but are there other particular ways you end a prayer and why?

9. It is clearly right to submit ourselves to God’s will but what examples does the Bible also give us of situations where God apparently changed what He intended to do in response to prayer? What did Jesus’ parable in study 2 (Lk 11.5-13) also suggest about this?

Beating the Breast

Read Luke 18.9-14

10. In what ways do we see strong emotion in the Tax Collector’s prayer to God?

11. How might we in private prayer follow the example of this man in Jesus’ parable?

12. We regularly say a prayer of confession in Church, partly prompted by James 5.16 which we read earlier. How can we ensure that in such prayer words don’t just become superficial?

13. The Pharisee was not without emotion, but what was wrong with his attitude in approaching God?