

Following Jesus
Jesus' Prayer Requests for Himself
Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:40-46

I. Message

a. Jesus prayed to His Father – v.39

- i. Jesus prayed to His Father
- ii. God is ONE God existing in three persons (the Trinity)
- iii. Since God is one God, technically praying to any one part of the God-head is praying to all
- iv. And it is certainly appropriate to pray to *GOD* (in general)
- v. But what is the “best practice”?
 1. Pray to the Father – **John 17:1; Luke 11:1-2**
 2. Pray in Jesus' name – **Ephesians 5:20; John 15:16; John 16:23-24**
 3. Pray w/ help and power of Holy Spirit – **Rom. 8:26-27; Jude 20-21**

b. Jesus prayed submissively – v.39

- i. “If it be possible” implies that He realizes it is probably not possible
 1. He knows this HAS to happen, He HAS to die, and it HAS to be on a cross, and the Father HAS to turn His back on His Son
 2. Tension: In His humanity, love for us v. dread of what must happen
- ii. Is there another way?
 1. Nothing we can ever experience can come close to the burden He is carrying for us here
 2. His situation is uniquely dreadful
- iii. What was Jesus dreading?
 1. In addition to the pain and suffering He was about to endure...
 2. Jesus despised everything about the cross and what led up to it
 - i. Judas was presently in the act of betraying Him
 - ii. The 11 were going to scatter probably because they slept instead of prayed at this moment
 - iii. Peter was going to deny Him
 - iv. The entire nation had rejected Him
 - v. Innocence was being served the greatest injustice of all time
 3. The mockery of sinful humanity (His creation turning on Him)
 4. The horror of the stain and weight of sin – **2 Corinthians 5:21**
 5. The terror of experiencing a sense of guilt
 6. The rejection of the Father, the loneliness
 7. The homesickness
 - a. V.37 – “very heavy” idea is to be distressed by displacement
 - b. We might say it “Severe homesickness”
 - c. **Luke 22:44; Isaiah 53:4-7**

c. Jesus prayed for the Father's will - v.39

- i. "Not as I will, but as YOU will"
 - 1. Satan prefers that we pray more selfish prayers to God
 - 2. **Here is my will God**
 - 3. But Jesus kind of prayer is me lining up with what God wants to do
- ii. **Song by Hillary Scott - "Thy Will"**
 - 1. I know the plan
 - 2. I know it is going to hurt
 - 3. I know your will is best
 - 4. So do your will in my life (in Jesus' case, in my death)

d. Jesus prayed repeatedly - v.39,42,44

- i. There is a difficult balance here for us
 - 1. Jesus warned against "vain repetition" - **Matthew 6:7-8**
 - 2. But he also commended "importunity" - persistence - **Luke 11:5-9**
- ii. Importunity is a sign of humility

e. Jesus prayed contentedly - v.45-46

- i. **How do you feel when God's will and your obvious desire conflict?**
- ii. Jesus trusted the Father - **1 Peter 2:20-23**

II. Conclusions

a. Jesus willingly gave Himself as your substitutionary sacrifice

b. If Jesus prayed to the Father earnestly, so should we

c. If Jesus submitted to the Father, so should we

d. If Jesus was content with the Father's "non-answer", so should we be

- i. Interesting when you compare Jesus and disciples in the next few minutes
 - 1. The disciples were over-confident, slept through prayer, and ended up scattering like scared children
 - 2. Jesus was humble, prayed earnestly, enduring great anguish and emerged from the garden ready to take on sin, hell and death (which He would conquer post-haste)
- ii. Which one will we be when the going gets tough?
- iii. Let's follow the example of Jesus!