

THE PRAYER LIFE OF CHRIST

MATTHEW 28

Text: Matt 28:18-20

(Mat 28:19-20) "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: {20} Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Introduction:

What is missing from fundamentalism today?

We have:

- Biggest Churches
- Christian Schools
- Colleges
- Money
- Buses
- Buildings

With all these things why aren't we fulfilling the great commission?

I discovered one day an amazing thing. I discovered that Matthew 9 comes before Matthew 28.

(Mat 9:36-38) "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. {37} Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; {38} Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

Wednesday night prayer meeting has been changed to Mid-week service.

Someone once said, "You will discover the popularity of a church by its attendance in Sunday School. You can tell the popularity of the preacher by the attendance on Sunday Night. You can tell the popularity of God by the attendance at Prayer Meeting.

Sadly, God runs a poor 3rd in many churches today.

The great commission was given to a praying church.

Jesus stressed prayer.

The disciples made request to the Lord to teach them to pray.

Notice if you will the pattern of prayer in the life of Jesus.

1. BEGINNING OF HIS MINISTRY

(Luke 3:21) "Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,"

A. Our ministry begins the moment we get saved.

2. BEGINNING OF HIS DAY

(Mark 1:35) "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed."

Illustration:

John Wesley in his 80's got up at 4:00 AM to pray.
Johnathan Edwards spent 13 hrs. a day in prayer

A. If we are going to be men and women of God we must talk to Him.

3. DURING THE HEIGHT OF HIS MINISTRY

(Luke 5:15-16) "But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities. {16} And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed."

4. BEFORE MAKING A DECISION HE PRAYED

(Luke 6:12) "And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God."

A. He was praying for those that would carry on the work, and the one that would betray Him.

5. WHEN HE WAS ALONE WITH HIS DISCIPLES

(Luke 9:18) "And it came to pass, as he was alone praying, his disciples were with him: and he asked them, saying, Whom say the people that I am?"

6. BEFORE HE ATE

(Luke 9:16) "Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and

brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude."

7. HE PRAYED FOR OTHERS

(Luke 22:31-32) "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: {32} But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."

(Rom 8:27) "And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."

(Rom 8:34) "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."

(Heb 7:25) "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

8. HE PRAYED TO STAY AWAY FROM TEMPTATION

(Luke 11:2-4) "And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in

heaven, so in earth. {3} Give us day by day our daily bread. {4} And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil."

9. HE PRAYED FOR GOD'S WILL TO BE DONE

Illustration:

Someone said, "Prayer is work, but prayer works."

10. HIS FIRST WORDS ON THE CROSS IS A PRAYER

(Luke 23:34) "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots."

11. HIS LAST WORDS ON THE CROSS WAS A PRAYER

(Luke 23:46) "And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost."
Close:

We have a responsibility to teach our families to pray.

Paul was a man of prayer

Moses was a man of prayer

Elijah was a man of prayer

David was a man of prayer

The prophets were men of prayer

The only way that we are going to fulfill the great commission is to be people of prayer.

Less interest in who wins the World Series, or Super Bowl and more interested in prayer.

The failure of our churches and our country is the failure of prayer.