

Class #2 Jesus & Prayer

Jesus Quotes on How to Pray

Matthew 21:13

He said to them, “It is written, “My house shall be called a house of prayer’; but you are making it a den of robbers.”

Matthew 21:22

Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.”

Mark 11:24-25

So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. “Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.”

Luke 6:27-29

“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt.

Luke 22:40-46

When he reached the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.” Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.” Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.

When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.”

Discussion Question

- **Which quote best describes prayer to you? Why.**
- **What, if anything, in these teachings challenges or expands the way you have thought about prayer?**
- **When have you experienced prayer as something more than asking God for something? What was that experience like?**

Jesus Teaches Us to Pray

Matthew 6:5-8; 24-34

And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is life not more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore, do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed, your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

Matthew 7:7-14

Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake?

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him! In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.

Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Discussion Questions

- **Which of these teachings speaks most directly to you about what prayer is? Why?**
- **As you listen to Jesus connect prayer with faith, forgiveness, love, surrender, and trust, which quality are you being invited to practice more deeply?**
- **Has your understanding of prayer changed or expanded through these teachings? If so, how?**
- **Think of something in your life right now that you are praying about. After hearing these teachings, is there a different way you might enter into prayer about it?**

Teachings from Matthew 6:5-15, 24-34 & 7:7-14

- Do not pray with piety before others in order to be seen, for you will receive that praise as your only reward; rather pray in the silence in your private room where the Father waits in silence, in so doing you lay your treasures in Heaven where they will await you.
- You will live your life (actions), according to your beliefs (thoughts, ideas) and the fruits of that life (manifestations) will bare witness as to what those beliefs are.
- Have faith and trust the Father as your source. When you ask in prayer believe and it will be given you. Faith is our ability to perceive the reality of God's Kingdom of good and say yes despite evidence to the contrary. It is that quality in us which enables us to look past appearance of lack, limitation or difficulty, to take hold of the divine idea and believe. It is the perceiving power of the mind linked with the power to shape substance. Do not underestimate the power of Faith in your life or the prayer process.
- Put the Kingdom of God first and all other things you seek will follow.

Activity Please Metaphysically Interpret Mark 11:24-25

^{11:24}Therefore I say unto you, All **things** whatsoever ye pray and ask for, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

^{11:25}And whensoever ye **stand** praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any one; that your **Father** also who is in **heaven** may forgive you your trespasses. ^{11:26}*But if ye do not forgive, neither will your **Father** who is in **heaven** forgive your trespasses.*

Discussion Questions

1. **Metaphysical — What is beneath the words?**

As you look at these passages, what spiritual principle or Divine Idea do you believe Jesus is teaching about prayer?

2. **Mystical — What is Jesus inviting us to experience?**

Beyond telling us *how* to pray, what do you think Jesus is inviting us to experience about our relationship with God? What changes when prayer becomes an experience of the Presence of God rather than simply asking God for something?

3. **Maieutic — Where is this my story?**

As you read these teachings, where do you recognize yourself? Is there something Jesus says about prayer that you struggle with, resist, question, or find difficult to live?

4. **Integration — What is changing for me?**

After interpreting these passages metaphysically, mystically, and personally, what is your greatest takeaway? **Has anything changed in how you understand prayer—or in how you might actually pray?**

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-15

“This, then, is how you should pray:” ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Teachings from Matthew 6:9-15 - How to Pray...

1. Recognize the Father as your source.
2. Acknowledge that you will follow His will whatever it might be.
3. Make your request.
4. Offer thanks in advance for His granting your request.

Interpretation of the Lord's Prayer

“Our Father... (I and the Father are one.)

I am one with everyone and everything.

“Who is in heaven...” (the kingdom of God is within you – Luke 17:21)

I look within and find the source of my being.

“Hallowed by Your name...” (God's nature, God's name is holy, sacred, and good)

God's goodness is the truth of my being

“Your kingdom come, Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven...” (God's kingdom first comes and God's will is first established within us, and then it is made manifest in our lives and on earth. As within, so without, on earth as it is in heaven.

My awareness of the indwelling Christ is made manifest in my life and in the world.

“Give us this day our daily bread...” (God provides us with what we need each day.)

All I need, I have. God is here.

“Forgive us our debts As we forgive our debtors...” (When we withhold forgiveness or love, we shield ourselves from the love that is our very nature, let's pray with open hearts.

My heart is open, and I withhold love from no one.

“Lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil...” (God does not put obstacles in our paths. God sends no temptations to us; instead an awareness, consciousness or experience of God delivers us from our challenges. God is the answer

God is my constant help in every need. A consciousness of God is the answer to every challenge.

Final Version of The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

I am one with everyone and everything.

I look within and find the source of my being.

God's goodness is the truth of my being

My awareness of the indwelling Christ is made manifest in my life and in the world.

All I need, I have. God is here.

My heart is open, and I withhold love from no one.

God is my constant help in every need. A consciousness of God is the answer to every challenge.

