



Mike Mozingo—Lead Pastor
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JESUS PRAYS

PRAYER WAS CENTRAL TO THE LIFE OF JESUS.

- Jesus taught his disciples to pray.
- Jesus prayed for all believers, the high priestly prayer. John 17
- Jesus prayed often.
- If Jesus the Son of God, found it necessary to pray regularly, how much more do we need to do so?
- 21 days of prayer starts today.
- Praying for God's will to be done and God's Kingdom to come.

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, "Sit here while I go over there to pray." ³⁷ He took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. ³⁸ He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." ³⁹ He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." ⁴⁰ Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, "Couldn't you watch with me even one hour? ⁴¹ Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!" ⁴² Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, "My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done." ⁴³ When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn't keep their eyes open. ⁴⁴ So he went to pray a third time, saying the same things again. ⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said, "Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But look—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Up, let's be going. Look, my betrayer is here!"

Matthew 26:36-46 NLT

- The cup was God's wrath and our sin.

⁴ Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! ⁵ But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. ⁶ All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.

Isaiah 53:4-6 NLT

²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:21 NLT

- The disciples still didn't understand the power of prayer.
- The enemy does all he can to keep us from praying.

⁴² "Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." ⁴³ Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him. ⁴⁴ He prayed more fervently, and he was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood. ⁴⁵ At last he stood up again and returned to the disciples, only to find them asleep, exhausted from grief. ⁴⁶ "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation." Luke 22:42-46 NLT

- Jesus needed to be strengthened and so do we.
- Jesus was living out and modeling submission to the Father.

ARE YOU PRAYING FOR GOD'S WILL?

⁶ Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done. ⁷ Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7 NLT

- What miracle are you praying for? _____
- What are you believing for that you will commit to focused prayer for 21 days straight? _____
- Are you more dependent on yourself or God to bring about life change?

Next steps for me today...

- Realize my need for God in my life.
- Commit to a focused time of prayer for 21 days.