

Luke 22:39-62

I. The purpose of prayer

A. V.40&46 – avoiding temptation

- 1) “*Pray that you may not enter (Gr. = go into; give into) into temptation (at all).*”
 - a) V.31-34 – Peter (and ***all*** the disciples) genuinely believed they would ***never*** betray Jesus; they would go to jail & even die before betraying Him – v.33; Matt. 26:35; Mark 14:31.
 - b) Yet they didn’t even have the inner strength to simply stay awake & pray with Jesus in His greatest ***hour*** of need – v.44-46; Matt. 26:40; Mark 14:37.
 - c) They couldn’t fight off sleep, yet alone fight off satan! – Matt. 26:41; Mark 14:38; Rom. 7:13-25.
 - d) They couldn’t stay awake long enough to pray for themselves or their Savior. Why?
 - i) They didn’t understand the brevity of the situation – Mark 14:33-34, 40; **Matt. 26:37-38:**
 - 1) V.37-38 – Sorrowful & deeply distressed; exceedingly sorrowful (even unto death) = **saturated with grief** – v.44; Heb. 5:7-8; 12:3-4.
 - 2) “*Stay here and watch with Me*” = be vigilant.
 - 3) Matt. 26:45; Mark 14:41 – “*The hour is at hand*”
 - aa.) ***Perhaps the greatest reason Christians don’t pray as we should is b/c we don’t truly understand the urgency of our time or our Savior:***
 - bb.) Rom. 13:11; 1 Pet. 5:8; Daniel 10; Mark 13:32-37
 - ii) They still didn’t understand how to pray.

1) *Do we understand how God desires & invites us to pray???* – **Matt. 11:28**

aa.) Luke 11:1-13 – consistently, persistently & intercessory.

bb.) Luke 18:1-8 – consistently, persistently & fervently.

cc.) 1 John 5:14-15 – according to God's will.

i) Consistent – Develop a routine

ii) Persistent – don't be discouraged/stay with it

iii) Intercede – pray for others

iv) Fervent – pray with passion

v) Humble/submissive – pray for God's will.

iii) They didn't understand their own sinful tendencies – Is. 53:6.

1) *The disciples thought it impossible they would give in to the temptation of betraying/denying their Lord...*

2) *But that's exactly what happened, due largely in part to their lack of prayerful preparation like Jesus had instructed.*

II. The results of a lack of prayer – v.54-62

A. V.54 – distance from Jesus

1) Jesus had invited/warned ***all*** the disciples, specifically Peter, James & John to stay close to Him to avoid this very type of situation – Matt. 26:37; Mark 14:33.

2) Instead, ***in a very short amount of time***, Peter ended up following from a distance.

- a) *It doesn't take long & it doesn't take much to get us off track & distanced from Jesus.*
- b) *The more distance we place b/w ourselves & Jesus the more room we surrender to our enemy to work: in our mind, heart, home, marriage, family, church, community, nation, world.*

B. V.55 – comfortable communion with our enemy – John 18:18.

- 1) *The less time we spend with Jesus in prayer the more susceptible we become to the allure of our enemy; the more comfortable we become in his presence; the more palpable sin, lies & deception become; the more callous our heart becomes & the more clouded our mind becomes.*
- 2) Our typical reaction = ***“I would never do that! That would never happen!”*** – Matt. 26:31-35; Luke 22:33; 1 Cor. 10:12

C. V.56-62 – Personal heartbreak

- 1) Our own and our Savior's – v.61-62