

Luke 11:1b Jesus' People Pray

Because prayer is essential to the Godward life, Jesus calls and instructs us to pray.

1) Jesus, our Lord, calls us to pray by example and command.

- a) Jesus' practice of prayer is the foundation of our prayer-life.
- b) Jesus' practice of prayer shows us our need for prayer.
 - i) Argument from lesser to greater: If Jesus, who did not have a sinful nature, found strength through temptations from the Father in prayer, how much more do we who do have a sinful nature need to pray.
 - ii) Jesus' prayer-life shows us how we can have fellowship with God as humans.
- c) Jesus commands us to pray because our ignorance and pride keeps us from prayer:
 - i) Ignorance of how powerful and determined our enemy is
 - ii) Ignorance of what we will face
 - iii) Pride in our own strength
 - iv) Pride in our own knowledge and wisdom

2) Jesus, our teacher, instructs us in prayer.

- a) Jesus teaches us to pray because our thoughts about prayer need correction.
 - i) The natural man does not possess the wisdom of God.
 - (1) To the natural man, prayer looks like a waste of time.
 - (2) To the natural man, prayer is for emergency purposes only.
 - ii) The world shapes our desires around self-love and humanism.
 - (1) We pray for our comfort more than for our holiness.
 - (2) We pray for alleviation of temporal suffering more than for reconciliation with God.
 - (3) We pray for worldly success rather than the mission of the Kingdom of God.
 - iii) Satan's schemes include superstitious views of prayer.
- b) Jesus teaches us to pray because we need encouragement to pray.
- c) Jesus teaches us to pray because we need direction in prayer.

3) Jesus, the Master, calls us and teaches us to pray!