

Lesson # 6 -- The Greatness of the Gethsemane Experience of the Lord Jesus

Introduction

A. You can tell a good deal about a person if you know something of their prayer life.

B. One of the main characteristics of the Savior's life was His praying.

1. The gospel record gives many examples of His fellowship with God.

Mark 1:35 -- A great while before day -- He prayed.

Luke 5:16 -- Fame -- multitude -- withdrew and prayed.

Matthew 9:13 -- Brought children to Him -- for prayer.

Matthew 14:23 -- Sent the multitude away -- and prayed.

Luke 22:32 -- "Peter, I have prayed for thee."

John 11:41,42 -- "Father, I thank You that You hear Me."

John 14:16 -- "I will pray the Father ... Comforter."

John 17:1 -- "Father, the hour is come."

Matthew 26:39 -- "O my Father ... not my will but thine be done."

2. Many important events accompanied His prayer life.

Luke 3:21 -- He prayed at His baptism -- the open heaven.

Luke 9:29 -- As He prayed He was transfigured.

Matthew 6:36 -- As He went to pray ... the Gethsemane experience.

Luke 23:34 -- As He was crucified He prayed ... "Forgive them."

3. The Lord Jesus considered prayer as essential for believers.

Matthew 6:5 -- "And when you pray ...."

Matthew 7:7 -- "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you."

Luke 18:1 -- "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint."

C. The background of the two prayers before us.

1. The concluding ministry of the Lord Jesus in Galilee and Perea.

2. The increasing animosity of the religious leaders.

3. The raising of Lazarus.

4. The final ministry in Jerusalem.

5. The triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

6. The observance of the Passover and the institution of the Lord's Supper.

7. The Farewell Discourse.

I. The High Priestly Prayer of the Lord Jesus. John 17

A. The background of the prayer.

1. In His prayer the Lord Jesus looked back on His ministry.
2. He prayed to prepare Himself for the coming agony of death and the triumph that would follow.
3. His prayer reflected His deep concern for the disciples.
4. The Savior prayed in anticipation of the salvation of all those who would believe upon Him. He prayed for us.

B. The content of the prayer.

1. The objective in the prayer was the glory of His Father. Vs 1,5
2. The basis of the prayer was His finished work. Vs 2-4
3. The scope of the prayer included all believers. Vs 16,9,10,20
4. The petitions of the prayer indicates its reality.
  - a. He prayed that we would be kept. Vs 11,15
  - b. He prayed that we would have His joy. V13
  - c. He prayed that we would be sanctified. Vs 17,19
  - d. He prayed that we would be one. Vs 21-23
  - e. He prayed that we would get to Heaven. V24
5. The believer's commission explained in the prayer. V24

C. The lessons that should be learned from the prayer of the Savior.

1. The importance of prayer.
2. The sufficiency of the work of the Lord Jesus.
3. The distinction between the believer and the non-believer.
4. The value of the believer to God.
5. The importance of the Christian life.

II. The Prayer in Gethsemane. Matthew 26:36-45

A. Introductory observation.

1. The Lord Jesus was anticipating His betrayal by Judas. John 13:21-30.
2. He had explained to the Disciples that His death was imminent.  
John 12:28-32
3. He told Peter he would deny Him before the night was over.  
Matthew 26:33-35
4. He went to the garden of Gethsemane to pray. Matthew 26:36
5. He selected Peter, James, and John to accompany Him. Matthew 26:37.

B. Explanatory statements.

1. Hebrews 2:10 -- For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the Captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.
2. Hebrews 5:7-9 -- Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared. Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.
3. Phil. 2:8 -- And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.
4. Mark 14:33 -- He began to be sore amazed and to be very heavy.
5. Matthew 26:37,38 -- He began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then said he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death, tarry ye here, and watch with me.
6. Luke 22:44 -- And being in an agony, he prayed more earnestly and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

C. Summary observations.

1. Because the Savior limited Himself to our resources -- He learned the will of God for His life -- through suffering.
2. Some events were known to the Lord Jesus through Scripture and others were made known to Him by the Holy Spirit and through prayer.

3. When the Lord Jesus came to Gethsemane He knew His death was near. However, it appears that He was then shown the depth of the suffering He was about to endure.
4. The Lord Jesus had all our sinless, natural desires. He had a fear of suffering and death as any one of us. Heb. 2:14-18; 5:7-9
5. As the Holy Spirit made known to Him the extent and nature of the suffering before Him -- the Lord Jesus was crushed in His spirit and went into a deep agony of prayer in which He sweat drops of blood.
6. His suffering was so intense an angel came to minister to Him.  
Luke 22:43

D. The agonizing prayer of the Lord Jesus. Matthew 26:39-44

1. The reason for His fear and agony.

- a. The Crucifixion meant that He would bear the sin and judgment of the human race and suffer their penalty, death, and hell.

- 1). Isaiah 53:5,6 -- But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way, and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

- 2). II Cor. 5:21 -- For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

- 3). Gal. 3:13 -- Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us. For it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.

- 4). I Peter 2:24 -- Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness, by whose stripes ye were healed.

- b. The Crucifixion meant that He would be cut off from the presence and fellowship of the Father and abandoned to endure our hell.

- 1). Psalm 22:1 -- My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?

- 2). Isaiah 53:10 -- Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him. He hath put him to grief . . . .

- 3). Matthew 27:46 -- And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?
  - 4). Rom. 8:32 -- He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things.
2. The prayer of the Lord Jesus was not one of rebellion but submission.
    - a. As the Son of Man He voices His fear and asks if there were some other way redemption may be accomplished.
    - b. In spite of His fear -- his prayer is one of submission -- and He makes a final dedication to the will of His Father.
- E. The lessons that should be learned from this prayer.
1. The greatness of the Lord Jesus.
  2. The reality and importance of spirituality -- the spiritual world.
  3. The seriousness of sin and divine judgment.
  4. The meaning of the love and holiness of God.
  5. The value and nature of salvation.
  6. The responsibility that is ours as believers for thanksgiving, dedication to the will of God, practical decisions of faith and love, and daily obedience to God through His Word.