

## TEACH US TO PRAY

### Finding The Place

Jesus' ministry was prayer based. He modeled for us the value of consistent prayer. He lived a life of constant prayer. From the very beginning of Jesus' ministry we see prayer being central.

*Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight. **He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.** (Mark 1:35)*

*However, the report went around concerning Him all the more; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities. **So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.** (Luke 5:15-16)*

The busier Jesus got, the more He prayed. Jesus prayed to the extent that He literally did nothing but what He saw (in prayer) the Father doing. He spoke nothing except what He heard the Father saying. He judged in the same manner.

*Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do**; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.” (John 5:19-20)*

*“**I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge**; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.” (John 5:30)*

*Then Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that **I do nothing of Myself**; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.” (John 8:28)*

*Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, **as He was accustomed**, and His disciples also followed Him. **When He came to the place**, He said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.”” (Luke 22:39-40)*

**Notice two phrases that marked Jesus' secret:**

1. **“As He was accustomed...”** Jesus made it a habit while in Jerusalem to go up to the Mount of Olives to pray.
2. **“When He came to the place...”** Jesus prayed so often, that He had *“the place”*.

Consistent prayer will build altars into our lives and a place of prayer. Finding our place is one of practice. Ask yourself, “Where and when do I meet God best? In church? At home? On a walk? Kneeling? Standing? In the morning? At night?” Through constant practice you will discover your place of prayer and build your altar.

Places of prayer change with seasons and God's movement in our lives, but whenever God moves us, the first thing we must build is our altar of prayer.

*Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” And **there he built an altar to the Lord**, who had appeared to him. And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his*

*tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; **there he built an altar to the Lord** and called on the name of the Lord.” (Genesis 12:7-8)*

*And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, **to the place of the altar which he had made there at first**. And there Abram called on the name of the Lord.  
(Genesis 13:3-4)*

*Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees at Mamre, which are in Hebron, **and built an altar there to the Lord**. (Genesis 13:18)*

Abraham had His priorities right. He built his altar and pitched his tent.

Daniel is another example of the power of consistent prayer. Prayer was outlawed in Babylon, with punishment by death. Daniel knew he could end up in the lion’s den, but he could pray because he had always prayed.

*Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, **as was his custom since early days.** (Daniel 6:10)*

Daniel had built an altar. He had done this by practicing prayer. He had come to “the place” and fear of death could not stop him because he had always been doing this.

Ask God where He wants to meet you and when you should meet there. If you don't feel you hear something specific, then choose a place that is free from interruptions and distractions, as well as a time that will not conflict with other commitments. Many find praying the first thing in the day to be very effective. It's like the tuning of a violin before the day's performance begins.