



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

The Passion of the Amazing Servant (Part 2)

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Rising very early before dawn, Jesus left and went off to a deserted place to pray (Mark 1:35-39). Jesus was in human flesh, but He came to live as a spirit-filled man. He needed to pray in order to live His life totally dependent on His Father's will (Lk 22:41-42). As believers, we should emulate Jesus by praying to develop a personal relationship with God.

1. What did Jesus pray about?

- Jesus prayed for His Apostles and Himself. He taught them the Lord's Prayer.
- Jesus spent time adoring and thanking His Father, and supplicating for us. (Jn. 17)
- Jesus prayed for those people who were healed and who needed healing.
- Jesus sought His Father's Will. He thanked God for His presence and His power.
 - We should also seek the will of the Lord for the direction of our lives.

2. Why did Jesus need to pray?

- Jesus said His Father's WILL prevailed and He was strengthened in prayer.
- Jesus wanted an unhindered fellowship with His Father. He wanted the Holy Spirit to flow through His life in absolute freedom and power (Lk. 10:21).
- Jesus Christ needed solitude and silence not only to gather energy, but also to gain experience and guidance. He wanted to be free from any distractions to pray solemnly.
 - The busier our life gets, the more we need to be alone with God to establish our quiet time in the morning, before distractions start. Even during raging storms, we need a place where we can ponder. A solitary place can help us digest the word of the Lord.

- Jesus reminds us to pray meditatively. If our real motive is to get through God, He will hear and answer our prayers. God does not need many words (Mt. 15:8; Mt. 6:7). He only wants to hear the sincere expression of our hearts.
- Jesus prayed before and after major experiences and crucial decisions. He prayed at the mount of transfiguration, and before His crucifixion (Mt 26:36). He had given thanks to His Father even before He healed Lazarus (Jn 11). He had prayed before He chose the 12 Apostles (Lk 6:12).

Based on the valuable lessons from Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane, we should:

1. Seek the Lord before our busy schedule takes over.
2. Withdraw from noise so we can focus on God.
3. Take Jesus' attitude of talking to God regularly.
4. Reflect on our priorities. Let us pray unceasingly (1 Thess. 5:17).
5. Determine to pray on a more regular basis and not just in times of crisis.

Jesus was consumed with passion to deliver His word to the people He met in His life and the people He had never met. He has a passion for all of us.

Reflection:

If you have never experienced a personal relationship with God, come to Jesus now. Ask Him in prayer today. He loves you, and He has a wonderful plan for you. He will save and deliver you from whatever binds you.

If you have any needs, Jesus is there; and He has a passion for you. He cares for you so much, and He will never abandon you; you only have to bring your needs to Him (1 Pt. 5:7).

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