

Teach us to Pray  
“In the Face of a Crisis”

Introduction:

Last week we listened into the prayer of Jesus as He moved, postured, and prayed at the tomb of Lazarus. —Described it as unspectacular prayer.

- Revealed habitual nature of His prayer life
- Selflessness of His prayer life
- Purpose behind His prayer—they may see and believe
- Balance of His prayer life

Leon Morris: *“He was never so carried away by the wonder of His miracles that He forgot the needs of the person.”*

(Loose Him/Let him go—Fed the daughter of Jairus!

Review of Context (John 12)

- ✓ In John’s Gospel, the public ministry of Jesus is coming to a close (13-17-private devotion with disciples in the upper room)
- ✓ Three main incidents selected by John in chapter 12

1. The anointing at Bethany (1-8)

- The gospel is written with conviction that Jesus came to die for sinners—has avoided Jerusalem but now is the time
- 6 days before Passover comes to Bethany (just outside of Jerusalem)
- 6 days would have been Sabbath
- Bethany where Lazarus had been raised
- A dinner is held in His honor—Mary anoints with very expensive perfume—usually for head/hair on the feet/humility
- Wiped with hair—house filled with fragrance
- Protest of Judas—300 denarii (years wages)
- All about the character of Judas
- Jesus defends Mary—possibly a greater sense than others that end is near—had been at His feet

## 2. The triumphal entry (9-19)

- Great multitude gathered to see Jesus—many wanted to put Lazarus to death (to Sadducees-Lazarus was an embarrassment)
- Many went out to meet Him and welcome Him as their Messiah-palm branches-save us!
- In fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy Jesus enters on a donkey
- Only later, when the Holy Spirit is revealed would they understand
- People witnesses of His miracle-many out to meet Him
- Pharisees-the world is going after Him

## 3. Visit of the Greeks (20-ff)

NOTE: This will bring crises to a head

- The inquiring of the Greeks-Philip, Andrew, Jesus “We want to see Jesus-(God fearers)
- The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. (He was Savior to all, up until now Jews-but now the Greeks pursue Him-it is time)

## The Hour Has Come

*Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." John 2:4 NKJV*

*But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:23-24 NKJV*

- Perfect tense-“the hour has come and stays with us.”
- No going back on it-crisis point has come
- For Son of Man to be glorified (not defeated but glorified, but through the horror of Calvary)

## Analogy of the Grain of Wheat

*Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. 25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor. John 12:24-26 NKJV*

- I tell you the truth-(Introducing a statement of importance)
- Only through death can fruitfulness occur (generally true)
- Particular reference to Jesus

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## IMPORTANT:

- ✓ If He tried to reclaim His life by bypassing the cross-he would lose the very life he sought to reclaim
- ✓ If he loses it-will find it/gain it

## So-here He is-Facing the Cross

— How does he pray in the face of Calvary

## Seize the Picture

- Everything had led up to this moment
- Bethlehem, baptism, temptation, miracles
- 3 years of ministry with 12-now moment is here
- Left Father's glory-would return with opportunity to take others with Him
- But a cross (pain, suffering, loneliness, God-forsakenness, stood between Him and glorification)

## Ever have those kind of moments?

- ✓ Everything has led up to this moment
- ✓ Last chance to turn back
- ✓ Only way to get where you are going is through the pain of confusion, trial, humility, and brokenness

How did Jesus pray in THAT moment?

In the Face of the Cross!

### **I. He prayed with a heart of genuine honesty and integrity.**

***v. 27 "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? Father save me from this hour?"***

- A. It was the very part of Him that He wasn't willing to lose that was so troubled.
  - 25 "He who loves his life (psucho/not zoe) will lose it
  - 27 Now my soul (psucho) is troubled
- B. Jesus is impeccably honest (his sould/humanity) is wrestling with the cross before Him

Most profound, rich and powerful mystery of Scripture

*Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, Hebrews 5:8-9 NKJV*

*For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:15-16 NKJV*

C. An arrogant or disingenuous attitude is not a prerequisite for prevailing prayer

1. Humility
2. Integrity
3. Brokenness
4. Vulnerability

## **II. He prayed with a mind/spirit that was informed.**

*v. 27b – “But for this purpose I came to this hour...”*

A. Integrity with one’s feelings is important in prayer

1. Psalms are full of that

*Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Psalms 42:5a NKJV*

*O my God, my soul is cast down within me; Therefore I will remember You from the land of the Jordan, Psalms 42:6a NKJV*

*Lord, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me. 2 Many are they who say of me, "There is no help for him in God." Psalms 3:1-2 NKJV*

2. My soul is troubled (my psuche is rattled)

B. But an informed mind is even more crucial

*“But for this purpose I came to this hour...”*

1. Jesus was informed about His purpose
2. Hebrews 12:2 “...who for the joy set before Him, endured the cross...” (the purpose)

C. Informed mind regarding His purpose is what overrode the troubled soul

D. Uninformed minds regarding God’s purpose

1. Why young girls settle for less than God's best
2. Why young men trade realized destiny for monetary pleasure
3. Why believers fail to prevail in prayer in the face of the cross

#### E. God has a purpose

*O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. 2 You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. 3 You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. 4 You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord. 5 You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand! 7 I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! 8 If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. 9 If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, 10 even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. 11 I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night— 12 but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you. 13 You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. 15 You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. 16 You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. 17 How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! 18 I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me! Psalms 139:1-18 NLT*

#### III. He prayed with a will that was resolute.

##### v. 28 "Father glorify Thy name..."

- A. Something beautiful occurs when we wrestle with the cross before our face
  1. In the pain we see Jesus clearly
  2. The presence of the Son of Man draws near
- B. We cry out—"Father, glorify Thy name."
- C. As He made His way up Golgotha—He was glorifying the Father's name
  1. He did it when He humbled Himself and came to Bethlehem—WORD BECAME FLESH
  2. He did it as He withstood Satan in the wilderness
  3. He did it in the temple—in Gethsemane and at the cross

*F.B. Meyer—“The revenue of glory accruing to God from this small planet is vastly greater than when Jesus became incarnate; and is yet to gather till a very storm of hallelujahs breaks in thundering waves of praise around the sapphire throne.”*

D. As we pray-facing our crosses

1. Can be honest-souls are troubled.
2. Informed-yes have a purpose for me.
3. Join a cloud of witnesses-Glorify Thy Name!