

I AM MAN

REFLECTING GOD'S CHARACTER
IN A WORLD OF CHAOS

Week Nine: "I Am A Man ... Of Prayer"

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. – Mark 1:35

I. Jesus prayed because He needed prayer

- Jesus was NOT just modeling a life of prayer for our sake

In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety. – Hebrews 5:7

- Some characteristics of Jesus' prayer life
 - He got up _____ to pray
 - He stayed up all _____ in prayer
 - He prayed before major _____ or _____
 - He prayed in _____
 - He prayed _____
 - He prayed _____
 - He prayed for _____
 - He prayed for _____

Jesus Christ teaches us: I need every day to have communion with My Father in secret. My life is like His, a life hid in heaven, in God; it needs time day by day to be fed from heaven. It is from heaven alone that the power to lead a heavenly life on earth can come. – Andrew Murray. Like Christ

II. Jesus' teaching on prayer

- How NOT to pray – Matthew 6:5-8
 - Don't use your "speaking in God" voice
 - Don't use elegant words and lots of them
 - Don't pray to be noticed
 - Don't replace private prayer with public prayer
 - Don't pray without content
 - Don't pray ritualistic, meaningless prayers
- How to pray – Matthew 6:9-13
 - Pray like you're talking to someone Who really loves you
 - Pray remembering He is sovereign, majestic and all-powerful
 - Make praise and worship a part of your prayer time
 - Put His will above your own

Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers, pray for powers equal to your task. – Phillips Brooks

- Don't be afraid to share with Him your needs
- But remember the difference between wants and necessities
- Pray that you would be as forgiving as you are forgiven
- Pray for the strength to endure tests and not let them to become temptations
- Pray dependently on God's daily deliverance from evil

Monday morning application

- Pray _____ others – Matthew 19:13; John 17:9
- Pray _____ others – Luke 9:28
- Pray _____ – Luke 5:16; Psalm 46:10
- Pray in _____ –Psalm 19:1; Luke 6:12
- Pray with _____ – Luke 6:12
- Pray _____ – Luke 5:16
- Pray _____ – John 17
- Pray based on a _____ of God and His truths
- Pray _____ – Luke 18:1
- Pray in the Father's _____ – Matthew 26:39

Is the Son of God praying in me, or am I dictating to Him? Prayer is not simply getting things from God, that is a most initial form of prayer; prayer is getting into perfect communion with God. If the Son of God is formed in us by regeneration, He will press forward in front of our common sense and change our attitude to the things about which we pray. – Oswald Chambers

PRAYER TIME

Would you be willing to ask as the disciples did, “Lord, teach me to pray”? Ask Him to make you a man of prayer. To show you how to pray and to give you a desire for a life of prayer. Ask Him to move your prayer life beyond just asking for things to praying within His will.

ANSWER KEY: early, night, decisions, events, private, regularly, intensely, direction, fellowship, for, with, alone, nature, intensity, regularly, genuinely, knowledge, persistently, will

I AM MAN

REFLECTING GOD'S CHARACTER
IN A WORLD OF CHAOS

Week Ten: "I Am A Man ... Of Endurance"

"For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer {for it} you patiently endure it, this {finds} favor with God. For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting {Himself} to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.." – I Peter 2:20-24

Endurance. That's a word that is often associated with athletics. But you'll find it used repeatedly throughout the New Testament. Especially in the letters of Paul. It seems that the early church put a high premium on the quality of endurance, of having a faith that lasts, a hope that keeps on believing – in spite of circumstances. Endurance was a quality Jesus had in full. He wasn't a quitter. He wasn't a slacker. He wasn't a coaster. He went all out all the time. And He put up with a lot. When He didn't have to. You see, real men aren't just tough, they're enduring.

- Go back and read the 1 Peter 2:20-24 passage above. What do you think is the difference between enduring when you have done something wrong and enduring when you have done something right?

According to these verses, what was the example that Jesus gave us to follow? What did He do?

What kinds of things might you and I be called to endure like Jesus?

- Think back on the life of Jesus. What kinds of things did He have to endure?

- Read Hebrews 12:1. What is meant by the “race that is set before us?”

How do we run that race with endurance? What would that look like in everyday life?

How does sin keep us from doing that?

- Read Hebrews 10:35-39. What does the writer of Hebrews say we need?

What is the reason for our enduring? What are we waiting for?

- Read James 1:2-4. According to these verses, what is the final by-product of endurance? What does it produce in us?

- Read Romans 5:3-6. Now read it in the NET Bible translation below:
Not only this, but we also rejoice in sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance, character, and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

What does endurance produce?

What is the final result when all is said and done?

- Read 1 Peter 3:14-18. What do you think it would look like to suffer for the sake or righteousness?

Have you ever had to do that? If so, how?

Jesus suffered for the sake of righteousness. How? What did He endure? What was the result?