



“Three Reminders About Prayer”

September 12, 2021

Matthew 26:36–46

[36] Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” [37] And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. [38] Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” [39] And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” [40] And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? [41] Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” [42] Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” [43] And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. [44] So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. [45] Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. [46] Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.” (ESV)

Luke 18:1–8

[1] And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. [2] He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. [3] And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ [4] For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, [5] yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’” [6] And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. [7] And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? [8] I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” (ESV)

Fun Question: Please share about a rather humorous prayer time or moment. If you can’t recall one, you may also share about a prayer time that was a particularly great blessing to you.

1. Read Luke 18:1-8 carefully and share any observations that you find in the passage. What is Jesus trying to teach His disciples about prayer? How does this passage describe the God of whom we are to pray too?

2. In Matthew 26:39 & 26:42, we can observe that Jesus is giving a very simple prayer to His heavenly Father. What reasons or circumstances can cause one to be tempted to articulate prayers that sound impressive or lengthy? What is the proper posture and attitude we are to have when praying, and how does this affect the content and length of our prayers?

3. One of the problems we have in our prayers is lack of vulnerability and authenticity in our prayers. What may be holding you back from really pouring your heart out to the Lord? What would it take to break down any walls that keep your prayers at a superficial level?