

COMMUNICATION: Knocking on Heaven's Door
Lesson for Sunday, March 8, 2026

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ We are learning what it means to be a disciple. Last week we discussed the need for spiritual discipline (spiritual sweat) if we are going to become a disciple.
- ⇒ We identified six basic disciplines that will lead us to godliness. Can you remember any of them? Write them in the space below:

BIBLE STUDY:

1. A _____ of Prayer (Luke 11:1)
 - a. It's interesting that the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, teach us to pray." Nowhere in the Bible did they ever say, "Lord, teach us to preach or teach or heal."
 - b. With Jesus, prayer was not a nicety, it was a _____.
 - c. With Jesus, prayer was not merely an opportunity, it was an _____.
 - d. Think about it! Jesus was the perfect Son of God, the perfect God-Man. He had a ministry of three years. How much do you think Jesus accomplished apart from prayer in those three years? Jesus tells us in John 5:19. Also consider John 14:10.
 - e. It was His _____ to pray. More than 40 times Scripture tells us that Jesus prayed.
 - f. When you study the prayer life of Jesus, you become convinced that there is absolutely no _____ for prayer: not energy, not enthusiasm, not intellect, not eloquence, not organization. No substitute for prayer.
2. The Prayer Life of Jesus
 - a. There are three simple things we want to recognize about the prayer life of Jesus.
 - b. First, Jesus's ministry _____ with prayer (Luke 3:21).
 - i. Why would we attempt to step out to do anything that we don't begin with prayer?
 - ii. It's foolish to try to do God's work apart from prayer.
 - c. Second, Jesus's ministry _____ on prayer.
 - i. Jesus found _____ in prayer (Mark 1:34-38).
 1. Jesus knew how to get a sense of direction from God. Jesus refused to be manipulated by men.
 2. Jesus knew God had a plan for Him and He got direction from God. Jesus refused to be intimidated by the tyranny of the urgent!

- ii. Jesus found answers to _____ He needed to make.
 1. Read Luke 6:12-13. Jesus was facing a great decision – the choosing of the twelve disciples.
 2. You should never make a great decision that you don't first soak that decision in prayer and let the Lord lead you! In the time of decision, we need to pray!
- d. Third, Jesus prayed when He needed _____ (Matthew 26:36-37).
 - i. This is Dark Gethsemane. He was so sorrowful that He was at the point of death. That means He was in a state of discouragement, disconsolation, akin to despair and depression.
 - ii. As Jesus prayed, His will was surrendered to God's will (see vs. 39 & 42).
 - iii. And the victory was won! Jesus made it through Dark Gethsemane! Jesus made it to Calvary and through the empty tomb and up to glory!
 - iv. If you've not had a dark night of the soul, you'll have one. Remember this: You'll never survive your Calvary unless you have a Gethsemane. You must have a time where you say, "Not my will, but Thine be done."
 - v. In a time of deep sorrow, Jesus knew how to pray.

APPLICATION:

- ⇒ Jesus lived His life by prayer; and if He did, don't you think we ought to? That's the lesson.
- ⇒ Jesus lived His life by prayer, and if the very Son of God, Who was the perfect God and perfect man, if He had to pray, do I think that I can live my life without prayer?
- ⇒ Discuss: What keeps us from praying? What are the challenges? Are we willing to ask the Lord, "Teach me to pray?"
- ⇒ Disciples are praying people. Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 that we are to "pray without ceasing."
 - The fruit-bearing disciple is in constant contact with their Heavenly Father and Lord.
- ⇒ What do you need to do this week that would improve your prayer life?