

And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. **John 3:19**

Store In My Heart Exodus 20:1-3

Then God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me."

While this verse is not directed specifically to us today, it does emphasize a principle that is important for us to understand.

God identified Himself to the Israelites before making this demand of them. He made certain they knew to whom they were obligated. Without such identification it would have been difficult to later rebuke them for worship offered to other entities.

God has identified Himself to us today as well. He has made clear that we are to submit to the one who gave His Son for our sins. We do not serve just any god, but the one and only God who has already given of himself for us. My eternity hangs on my obedience to this God of Salvation.



Jump Start #1377 – Pray

Roger Shouse

"It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples.'" Luke 11:1

I love this passage. It is so innocent and honest. The disciples saw Jesus pray. They wanted to learn how to pray. Prayer is one of those things that most of us feel like we could do better. Few that I have talked to like the way they pray. We don't pray enough. We don't pray about others. Our prayers are shallow. Then there are those wonderful classes about prayer. They help. They are good reminders.

Let's look into some thoughts about prayer today.

First, the request to be taught to pray came after Jesus prayed. They heard and then they asked. John 17 is one of the longest prayers of Jesus that is recorded. There were prayers on the cross. We know that He prayed all night. Jesus prayed often. He prayed before He chose the apostles. Jesus is the model to look to for prayer. He understood that prayer keeps our relationship with the Lord alive and vital. We need to talk to God.

Second, prayer is something that must be learned. It's not natural and that's why we often fail. It's not that praying is hard, but it is in the sense to remember to pray not only about the big things in life but also the little things. Prayer is not about getting what I want but rather, inviting God into my life. It is God's will becoming my will. Following a prayer ought to be a prayer of thanksgiving. We thank God for answering our prayers. Prayer is not always about getting. Prayer is praise. Prayer is thanking. Prayer is seeking Heaven's help.

It is interesting to me that the apostles never asked Jesus how to preach. Peter and John were fishermen. They weren't accustomed to standing before crowds and speaking. They would. They would speak before officials, opponents and those that cherished every word that they said. They never asked Jesus how to preach. They never asked Jesus how to do a miracle. They would be sent preaching and confirming that word with miracles. Just what are the steps to healing someone? They never seemed to ask that. I would have. Just how do you raise the dead? Never asked that one. How do you grow faith? How do you grow a church? How do you appoint elders or shepherds in a congregation? What's the best way to serve the Lord's Supper? How do you get people to be stronger? Tons of questions that they could have asked, but it seems like they never did. But this one, teach us to pray, seems so simple. Maybe prayer builds a relationship with the Lord that would take care of many of those other questions. Maybe we don't pray enough.

Third, in asking about prayer, they were not asking about the fundamental and core principles of prayer. For instance, they were not asking about "Who do we pray to?" They were not asking about reverence in prayer. They were not asking about praying to God instead of praying to man. Those that asked this question were Jewish men who grew up praying. Prayer was part of the fiber of Jews. In the home, synagogue and temple activities, prayer was a common sight. These twelve had heard prayers all of their lives. They understood the basics of prayer 101. What they were asking was how to pray like Jesus prayed. He really prayed. He prayed all the time. How do we do that? That's the key question.

(This is only half of this article. The second half, which looks at some lessons from the example, often called "the Lord's Prayer," Jesus gave when His disciples ask for instruction will be in the next bulletin. DLH)

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Jon Ross Simpson is recovering from his surgery.

Vickie McNees is home and on a restricted diet.

Sue Soliday is doing physical therapy for her lymphedema.

Jim Soliday is having heart rhythm problems still.

Jonathan & Amy Simpson are out of town this weekend.

Dan & JoBeth Henderson are in Beaumont, TX, today. They leave Monday for a Gospel Meeting in California.

Classes for the week of October 20th.

Sunday Evening – **Haggai** Wednesday – **John 9:35**