

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## When Did Jesus Pray?

(Jerry Fite)

Jesus, from the beginning of His ministry to His last breath on the cross, was a man of prayer. At His baptism, He prayed to His Father in heaven, and *“the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended in a bodily form, as a dove upon Him, and a voice came out of heaven, Thou art my beloved Son: in thee I am well pleased”* (Luke 3:21-22). Jesus came to do the will of His Father in heaven, so it is only fitting as He began His ministry he would be praying connecting His will to the Father’s will (*cf. John 5:30*). He immediately received miraculous confirmation of a pleased Father in heaven. Complying with God’s will led Jesus to the cross where Jesus expressed in prayer the heavy weight He felt in being sacrificed for man’s sins, and He beseeched in prayerful trust for His Father to receive His spirit as He gave His last breath (*Mark 15:34, Luke 23:46*).

Jesus sought to be alone with His heavenly Father in prayer. With the word spreading concerning His miraculous power, multitudes sought to hear Him and be healed. *“But He withdrew*

*Himself in the deserts, and prayed”* (Luke 5:16). Feeling the pressure of duty, and wanting to just “get away”, when was the last time it drove you to prayer, instead of planning a “getaway weekend” or “vacation”? When was the last time you separated from the crowd and had prayer with close family members? Jesus separated from the multitudes to pray with His disciples (*Luke 9:18*).

Jesus prayed when He faced an important decision. Before choosing the twelve apostles from His many disciples, Jesus *“went out into the mountain to pray; and He continued all night in prayer to God”* (Luke 6:12). These apostles would be men given to Jesus by His Father (*John 17:6*). Apparently, answered prayer was behind His being able the next day to choose those men He named as apostles (Luke 6:13-16). Do we spend much time with God in prayer before we make important decisions as to who we will marry, or the wisdom of taking the new job offering?

Jesus too time to offer up “thanksgiving” to God. No, I am not speaking of merely of the times He gave thanks for the food before Him, which He did consistently (*John 6:11, Matt. 15:36*), but when He saw God’s wisdom being worked out in the seventy He had sent out, rejoicing, he said, *“I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou didst hide these things from the wise and understanding, and didst reveal them unto babes: yea, Father; for so it was well-pleasing in thy sight”* (Luke 10:21). When was the last time you spoke to God, not asking for something, but just thanking Him for His eternal plan of salvation in Christ which was the wisest of the world could never have authored, but the simplest of men can know?

Jesus interceded in prayer on behalf of others at critical times. He prayed for Peter, that his “faith” would “not fail” (*Luke 22:32*). Jesus sought God’s help through prayer to keep others spiritually strong. Do you prayer for other’s spiritual strength? May we, like Jesus, pray regularly.