

INTRODUCTION: As we continue our summer of discipleship, this week we discuss Disciples as Prayer Warriors. We look at this in the context of Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane after the Last Supper and before His trial and crucifixion. Here, we see some principles that apply to being a prayer warrior that I trust we will all take to heart. These principles include BEING ALONE WITH GOD, BEING ALONE WITH OTHER PRAYER WARRIORS, BE BOLD WITH YOUR REQUEST, BE AWARE, BE PERSISTENT, BE AWAKE, BE WILLING TO PRAY WHEN NO ONE ELSE IS, and BE OBEDIENT NO MATTER THE ANSWER.

BE ALONE WITH GOD

- (26:36) Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and He told the disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."
 - Gethsemane: A garden at the Mount of Olives where Jesus frequently prayed.
 - Sit here: Why did Jesus not ask these to join Him in prayer?
 - Distraction?
 - Would not take it seriously?
 - Unreliable?
 - They were not the closest to Him?
- Jesus has the most intimate relationship with God, yet He needed to get alone with Him to commune with Him.
- (Mt. 14:13) When Jesus heard about it (beheading of JTB), He withdrew from there by boat to a remote place to be alone. (Of course, the crowds followed Him.)
- (Mt. 14:23) After dismissing the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray.
- Jesus made a regular habit of being alone with God in prayer. If God's own Son needed to do this, surely, we

must as well. But sometimes, you need to be alone with other prayer warriors.

BE ALONE WITH OTHER PRAYER WARRIORS

- (26:37-38) Taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, “My soul is swallowed up in sorrow—to the point of death. Remain here and stay awake with Me.”
 - Peter, James, John. These were the same three He took on the Mount of Transfiguration (Mt. 17). These were His closest friends and confidantes.
 - My soul is swallowed up in sorrow—to the point of death.
 - He has been telling them that He must be crucified.
 - Now, in His humanity, Jesus is deeply feeling all of the emotions that go with knowing that you’re about to die an excruciating death.
 - He tells His closest friends. There is no indication that He asked them to pray for Him, but He wanted them there!
 - All Jesus asked of them was to remain with Him and stay awake. Spoiler alert: That was too much for them to handle.
- Jesus, in the most deeply distressing sorrow of His life, and knowing what He must do, still went to His Father with a bold request.

BE BOLD AND SPECIFIC WITH YOUR REQUEST

- (26:39) Going a little farther, He fell facedown and prayed, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Yet, not as I will, but as You will.”
 - Alone, but not all by Himself.
 - He fell facedown: A praying posture!

- If it is possible
 - Jesus does not want to die. That's human.
 - This is why it's so offensive when someone says that there are other ways to God. If there are other ways, the blood of Christ was wasted.
 - I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (Jn. 14:6)
- Let this cup pass from Me: The cup of wrath for the sin of mankind.
 - This was a very specific request.
 - Mark 10:35-52
- Yet, not My will, but Yours: Jesus has made His request boldly, but is willing to accept His Father's answer.
- Being bold in prayer does not guarantee the result we want. Jesus knew God's plan. But still, He poured out His heart to His Father.
- When we pray, we must not only be bold, but we must be aware.

BE AWARE

- (26:40-41) Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping. He asked Peter, "So, couldn't you stay awake with Me one hour? Stay awake and pray, so that you won't enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."
 - He found them sleeping: These disciples were not being good prayer warriors because they were not aware.
 - So that you won't enter into temptation: Refers back to vv. 31-35.
 - The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak: Do not use this as a stand-alone verse to justify eating an entire cake. Jesus is fully recognizing how difficult

it is to be human and focus on prayer. Peter particularly is being addressed here because he thinks he is strong.

- When you pray, be aware of what's going on in the lives of others. Be aware of what's in your heart. Be aware of those dark things in your heart and bring them to the light of the Lord so they can be defeated! Peter was not aware of his own heart.
- Prayer is not always a "one and done" thing. Being a prayer warrior requires that we be persistent.

BE PERSISTENT

- (26:42) Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, Your will be done."
 - This repetition is not because God did not hear it the first time.
 - Again, Jesus makes His request and expresses His obedience.
- We are commanded to pray without ceasing (1 Thes. 5:17) If we are in a constant state of prayer, we are bound to repeat some things.
- Persistence is important, but a good prayer warrior will stay awake.

BE AWAKE

- (26:43) And He came again and found them sleeping, because they could not keep their eyes open.
 - Let's be honest. It can be difficult to be awake and pray. I once had a teacher that said that you should pray and read the Bible when you first get up. Turns out he meant you should get up and out of bed first, otherwise you just fall back asleep.
 - If you can't stay awake for your prayer, is it effective. Certainly not.

- Sometimes, when you pray, you have to be willing to be the only one praying.

BE WILLING TO PRAY WHEN NO ONE ELSE IS

- (26:44) After leaving them, He went away again and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more.
 - This time, it appears that Jesus just left them asleep, and continued praying without them.
- Again, note the consistency of His prayer. Once again, He is willing to submit to God's will.

BE OBEDIENT NO MATTER THE ANSWER

- (26:45-46) Then He came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the time is near. The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up; Let's go! See, My betrayer is near."
 - Are you still sleeping?
 - Jesus knew that the time had come.
 - Get up; Let's go! See, My betrayer is near!
 - We see in the next few verses that Jesus accepted His Father's answer and submitted Himself to accept our punishment.

SO WHAT?

- What is your prayer life like? If every prayer is followed by "pass the potatoes" you're doing it wrong. Prayer must be intentional.
- Where is the place that is dedicated for you to spend time with the Lord? Where do you go to get alone with Him?
- Who are your prayer warriors? Can you identify two or three people who will pray with you when things are tough? Also, whose prayer warrior are you? Who can call you at 3am when life is falling apart?
- Do you go to the Lord boldly or timidly?

- Do you make an intentional effort to shine a light on those things in your heart that God needs to get rid of?
- Are you persistent in your prayer? Do you pray until you get the answer?
- In your prayer, are you just asking for things or are you submitting to God's will no matter what his answer?
- Have you submitted your life to God in obedience?