

The Prayer Life of Jesus

Scripture records 22 occasions where Jesus prayed. On 8 of those occasions, the Bible even gives us a record of what he prayed. All 22 occasions are listed below, with references, arranged chronologically to the best that can be determined.

#1 - Lk. 3:21-22 The very beginning of Jesus' ministry was marked by prayer, accompanied by the opening of the heavens and the descent of the Holy Spirit!

#2 - Mk. 1:35 After some intense ministry, Jesus still got up very early to commune with the Father.

#3 - Lk. 5:16 Jesus placed a great priority on prayer.

#4 - Lk. 6:12-13 Jesus set the example that before making important decisions, much prayer is necessary and appropriate.

#5 - Mt. 11:25-26 / Lk 10:21 Jesus joyfully gave praise to his Father for the manner in which He bestowed revelation.

#6 - Mt. 14:19 / Mk. 6:41 / Lk. 9:16 / Jn. 6:11 Jesus gave thanks to the Father for the little that was provided before multiplying it to feed a very large crowd.

#7 - Mt. 14:22-23a / Mk. 6:45-46 Jesus showed by example that it is important, after a great miracle has been performed, to draw close to the Father.

#8 - Lk. 9:18 On this occasion, Jesus had his disciples with him when he was in prayer to the Father.

#9 - Mt. 15:36 / Mk. 8:6-7 Once again, Jesus is grateful to God for little before making it much.

#10 - Lk. 9:28-29 Jesus' prayer here led to his being glorified, and then being visited by Moses and Elijah!

#11 - Lk. 11:1 There was something so attractive about Jesus' prayer life that his followers wanted to be taught to pray!

#12 - Jn. 11:41-44 Jesus paused to thank the Father publicly before raising Lazarus from the dead.

#13 - Mt. 19:13-15 The reputation of Jesus' prayer life had spread quite far.

#14 - Jn. 12:27-29 Here Jesus' 4-word prayer reveals the main passion of his life.

#15 - Mt. 26:26-28 / Mk. 14:22-24 / Lk. 22:17-19 Jesus habitually thanked the Father for the food that He provided.

#16 - Lk. 22:31-32 Here Jesus' prayer was very personal – he prayed for Simon by name. It was also very specific – that Simon's faith would not fail.

#17 - Jn. 17:1 - 18:1 This was the great “High-Priestly” prayer of Jesus for his followers. Just before his most horrible trial, he cared deeply that all his followers would be one.

#18 - Mt. 26:36-46 / Mk. 14:32-42 / Lk. 22:39-46 In the garden of Gethsemane Jesus prayed so earnestly that his sweat was like drops of blood. And his main concern was that his Father's will would be accomplished.

#19 - Lk. 23:33-34 Here we see the complete purity of the Son of God, as he asked the Father to forgive his killers.

#20 - Mt. 27:46 / Mk. 15:34 Besides quoting Psalm 22, Jesus here asked the Father about their separation – which had never happened before!

#21 - Lk. 23:46 Jesus' final prayer before dying – one of absolute trust.

#22 - Lk. 24:30-31 Cleopas and another of Jesus' disciples recognized their Lord just after he prayed!