

# The Life Challenge

*"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10*

**Series:** Teach Us to Pray

**Title:** Watch Jesus Pray

**Speaker:** Steve Berg

**Text:** Luke 11:1

**Date:** October 14, 2018



## WARM-UP

Is it better for you to learn by watching someone or do you prefer to learn with a more formal teaching structure? Tell a good story about learning a new activity/skill or improving your experience by watching an expert do it.

## DISCUSSION

1. The disciples had learned some things about prayer from John the Baptist. But they watched Jesus walk in such authority and power, and realized the connection to His prayer life. They wanted to learn so much more - "Lord, teach us to pray."
  - What have you learned about prayer in your journey?
  - What more do you want to learn about prayer from Jesus?
2. The disciples observed that prayer was essential for Jesus. Discuss what you learn from Jesus:
  - Jesus said continually, "The Son by himself can do nothing," John 5:19
  - Jesus never said to Himself, "My training, my background, my knowledge, the ability that God has given to me as a man, make me sufficient for most things on my own; the rest I'll depend on the Father for."
  - Out of this conscious, constant sense of need, Jesus had a continuing attitude of prayer - a continuing expectation that if anything was to be done the Father would have to do it. This is what was at the core of His amazing prayer life, and demonstrated that, to Him, prayer was an absolute essential.
  - This is what Jesus is teaching us - there is no activity of life which does not require prayer, a sense of expectation for God to work. We don't pray just for emergency use only, for the "big" problems of life. No, prayer in every situation is essential.
3. The disciples observed that prayer was natural for Jesus. Discuss what you learn from Jesus:
  - There was no struggle for Jesus to pray. There was no driving Himself. Prayer to Him was not an act of self-discipline or duty, it was always delight.
  - Jesus had to plan for prayer in His life. He had to make choices between other demanding things that threatened to use His time.
  - Certainly there were times when He was weary and pressed and prayer was not the easiest thing to do under the circumstances. Yet it was no apparent problem to Jesus.

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## DISCUSSION

There was no sense of reluctance or that this was a requirement He had to fulfill. He never seemed to drag Himself away from something else to pray.

- Prayer is the cry of a beloved child to a Father with a father's heart who is ready to pour out all that he has to give. When we ask, "Teach us to pray," we are doing so out of a sense of need and prayer is simply the expression of human need to an eager Father. When we say these words, we have already taken the first and most important step toward discovering the power of prayer.

4. What do you want to learn to make the dream of Prayer Engagement a reality?

"The church we dream of is a community of believers who engage prayer as the **first point of action in all things**. It is a community in which **people are regularly and confidently initiating prayer** with others and inviting prayer for themselves. We dream of a church full of **prayer warriors**; people who **boldly bring their requests before God** and who **persistently seek His presence in expectation** of what's to come."