**Doris' Doodles** 

**Prayers of Jesus** 

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Where? When? Who? How? What?

There are a number of occasions when we read of Jesus talking to others about prayer, but, not many instances when we read about His own personal prayers. What can we learn from the prayers of Jesus?

WHERE did Jesus pray? Each time Jesus prayed He went to a quiet or lonely place. Straight after His baptism he went into the desert for nearly six weeks. (You can't get more lonely than that!) His favourite place seemed to be the Mount of Olives. Luke 22:39. 'He went as His custom was, to the Mount of Olives.' It was on the Mount of Olives that Jesus stood and wept over Jerusalem. Gethsemane was an olive orchard near the bottom of the Mount of Olives, although the exact location is not known today. There are now numerous man-made tombs on this mountainside and thousands of Jewish graves. Many of the Jews want to be buried on the Mount of Olives because of the belief that the return of Jesus will be in the same place on earth that He left when He ascended into Heaven – which was the Mount of Olives. (See Zechariah 14:4)

It is sometimes very difficult for us to find a quiet place, particularly for those who have other members of the family, children or teenagers in the same house. It can be almost impossible to find a place where we cannot hear other people, music or traffic, but, isolation can help us to cut off from the busy world around us.

WHEN did Jesus pray? We read in Mark 1:35 'In the morning, a great while before day, He rose and went out to a lonely place and there He prayed.' This shows that Jesus spent some considerable time in prayer when most folk were still asleep! It is also recorded several times that He went to pray after a busy time of ministering to others. Sometimes He went to pray before important decisions had to be made. For example, we read: 'He went out to a mountain to pray and all night he continued in prayer to God.' When He came down from the mountain it was then that He chose His twelve disciples. (Luke 6:12) He gave His quality time and not just a five minute prayer. When we have important decisions to make it is vital that we bring the various options before God in order to allow Him to speak into our situation and guide us. Some of us find it easier to pray first thing in the morning, some in the evening. A regular habit of praying is more important than what time we do this. This does not mean, of course, that we can't pray at other times in addition to this whenever we feel the necessity to do so.

**WHOM** did Jesus take with Him when He went to pray? This question rather puzzles me. A number of times Jesus took with Him Peter, James and John, yet each time He did this He did not stay with them when He was actually praying but went a distance away from them, so I do not quite understand why He took them with Him in the first place! However, had they not been with Him then we would not have a record of some of His prayers in our Bibles today.

WHERE? WHEN? WHO? HOW? WHAT

**HOW** did Jesus pray? The accepted norm for prayer for us seems to be to kneel but there is no set rule about this. Kneeling is a position of humility. Some are not able to kneel. I would say that we do whatever is the most comfortable to enable us to concentrate on our prayers. This may also vary so that we do not always pray in the same position. When Jesus was on the Mount of Transfiguration He was standing. Sometimes it is recorded that He knelt and in the Garden of Gethsemane it looks as if He actually lay prostrate on the ground.

Jesus must have often spoken out His personal prayers verbally, otherwise they would not have been heard and subsequently recorded. I suppose that in speaking out our prayers we are far less likely to have our minds wander onto other things. – 'Are the children OK?' 'What shall I cook for dinner today?' 'What do I want from the supermarket this afternoon?' If we are within hearing of someone else then we are more likely to use non-verbal prayers.

WHAT did Jesus pray? The prayers of Jesus are totally focussed on two things:- His own relationship with God the Father and the relationship of others with God the Father and their salvation. Jesus was fully committed to doing God's will and not His own. He said what God told Him to say and did what God told Him to do. John 12: 49-50. 'For I have not spoken on my own authority; the Father who sent me has Himself given me commandment what to say and what to speak. I know that His commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has bidden me.' His desire was to be 100% obedient to the Father. We have those very well-known verses in Mark 14 when Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane. When He is about to be betrayed He says, 'Abba, Father, all things are possible to Thee: remove this cup from me; yet not what I will but what Thou wilt.' Mark 14:36. He knew exactly what was ahead of Him. As a human being His wishes were not to go through with it, but, as the Son of God He knew His destiny and His only desire was to carry out to the letter what God the Father had planned for Him.

What an example Jesus sets for us – 100% obedience! Not an easy task yet He is always there to help enable us to achieve that goal. We all have different tasks in our Christian rolls but the aim is the same for each one of us.

100 %

## Some passages to read:-

Prayer of Jesus for others. John 17 Garden of Gethsemane. Mark 14: 32-42 Ascension of Jesus. Acts 1: 6-12

