

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

A PLACE TO PRAY

Luke 5:16 “But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.”

The Bible encourages you to pray. You probably know the familiar words of encouragement, “pray without ceasing.” They are actually found in Psalm 66:18, 1 Thessalonians 5:16. The Disciples of Jesus felt the need to ask Jesus to “teach them to pray.” Because of that request, Jesus taught them The Lord’s Prayer. (Luke 11:1-4)

Today’s Bible verse says, “Jesus often withdrew to lonely places to pray.” There are a total of 25 places in the New Testament where it is recorded that Jesus prayed. In a number of instances Jesus went to a quiet place at a time when He was exhausted, other times He was under extreme pressure from His public ministry and of course there is the critical time when He went to the Garden of Gethsemane just prior to His arrest and crucifixion. It was there that His praying was so intense that “He sweat great drops of blood.” (Luke 22:44)

What is your prayer life like? Do you set aside specific times to pray? Do you have a special place where you pray? Since prayer is a heart-to-heart talk with God, it is best if you, like Jesus, have a special place where you can go and will not be interrupted.

Many prayers you pray are for family and friends, especially during times of illness, injury or when experiencing difficulties in their lives. Certainly, God invites you to pray for them. In addition, have you ever “talked to God” (prayed) about His word? Yes, prayer can be a discussion with God about what is in His word or on your heart and in your mind.

There are well written prayers that have been composed in the past. Some Christians like to begin their day praying Luther’s morning prayer and end their day with his evening prayer (LSB page 266.) To do something new, open your LSB to a special section titled Morning Prayer (pp 235 ff) and Evening Prayer (pp 243 ff.) Rather than sing these two special services, simply pray the words.

Prayer: Lord, as did the Disciples so we ask that You will teach us to pray. In Your holy name. Amen.

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear—
All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heav'y laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.
(LSB 770)