

# SERMON NOTES Sunday 12th August

## sunnysidechurch

**Why pray? Mark 1.35-39**

### Sermon outline

#### Introduction

The simple answers to the question 'why pray?' are:

- because Jesus prayed - New Testament records Jesus praying 25 different times
- because Jesus assumed we would - 'when you pray' (Matt 6.5)
- about spending time with God

#### Why does Jesus pray? Mark 1.35-39

- he needed to know what God wanted him to do
  - only does what his Father tells him (John 5.19)
  - prays then travels throughout Galilee
- he needed to know what God wanted him to say
  - says word Father gives him (John 12.49-50)
  - prays then preaches
- he needed strength to do what God calling him to
  - remains obedient (e.g. temptation in wilderness and Garden of Gethsemane)
  - healing sick and casting out demons

#### Conclusion

Jesus' relationship with his heavenly Father is sustained and strengthened by prayer. We too need to pray if we wish to grow in our relationship with God and become more like Jesus.

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Jesus' relationship with his heavenly Father is sustained and strengthened by prayer. We too need to pray if we wish to grow in our relationship with God and become more like Jesus.

### Some questions for discussion

1. What are some of your favourite stories of Jesus praying in the Bible?
2. Why does Jesus assume that we will pray (Matt 6.5)?
3. Read Mark 1.35-39. How does this passage help us understand why Jesus prayed?
4. 'Prayer is essentially practical. It should make us more human, not less. It should give us resources to live our lives more fully, and to be more deeply engaged with others and with our communities. One Christian of the early church said that 'the glory of God is a human being who is fully alive.' So let's not see prayer as something that draws us away from real life. It's precisely the opposite - it should make us enter the everyday realities of life more deeply.' (John Pritchard: How to Pray) Does this help us to understand better why we should pray?
5. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through this passage? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

'We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way.' (Colossians 1.9-10)

Why not take some time to pray using Paul's prayer?

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