

FOLLOW-THROUGH

“Prayer in Secret”

Sermon 5 in the Series, “Lord, Teach Us To Pray”
Small Group Discussion around the Sunday Message
March 18, 2007



Introduction

1. Read Luke 22:39-45.
2. In vs. 39 Luke tell us that Jesus went “as usual” to the Mount of Olives, or the Garden of Gethsemane, for prayer. It was his favorite place in Jerusalem for one-on-one time with God. Where do you like most to spend time with God? Explain why that particular place is so important to you.
3. Vs. 41 tells us that Jesus “withdrew” from his disciples for prayer. This intentional time of solitude with His Father is often called “prayer in secret?” If “1” is easy and “5” is very difficult, where do you put yourself when it comes to withdrawing from others for solitude and prayer?

Putting the Passage to Work

1. Read Matthew 6:5-6 to find out more about prayer in secret. Answer the following:
 - To what does Jesus compare the prayer in secret?
 - What promise does he offer those who practice the prayer in secret?
2. Often Jesus practiced the prayer in secret He taught. Look up these two passages and explain the significance of His prayer time for His life and ministry in each case?
 - Mark 1:35-39
 - Luke 6:12-13
3. Which is more challenging for you, being alone with God or being silent before God? Explain your response.
4. If you have a problem with frequent, regular prayer in secret, which of these comes closest to defining your problem:
 - I’m trapped in life’s sound and fury.
 - I’m too tired for the work of solitude.
 - I’m a social animal.
 - I’m afraid to face myself.
 - I lack confidence that it will make a difference.
 - Other:

Digging Deeper

1. Look up these two passages and explain what each says to you about prayer in secret:
 - 1 Kings 19:1-18
 - Galatians 1:11-17
2. When have I grown through prayer in secret? Tell the story.
3. Lord Byron wrote, “In solitude we are least alone.” What did he mean?
4. Who does the greater work in prayer? God or me? What difference does my answer make?
5. What is on my heart today that I need to take to God in one-on-One prayer?
6. Jesus wrestled deeply in prayer for us in Gethsemane. Explain what His prayer in secret there means to you personally.
7. Spend some time in silence as a group. Then offer prayers aloud for one another

