

Day 2: April 3, 2020
Prayer

Definition: A solemn request for help or expression of thanks addressed to God.

Read: John 17

My prayer life growing up was done more out of routine than a desire to have a genuine connection with God. I remember gathering around the kitchen table, closing my eyes and praying the same prayer I did the night before. The same was also true when it was time for me to go to sleep. I lacked passion. I wasn't speaking from my heart; I was speaking from my mind. I firmly believe that the bland routine of my prayer life prevented me from conversing with God on a real level. Because I only made God available when it was that time of day, I didn't understand how important it was to speak to Him on an intimate level in every moment of my life until I was older.

You are clueless on the hour or the day, but death will eventually come to you. As far as I know, the mortality rate is still holding strong at 100 percent. But, pretend for a moment that you knew the day you were going to die. What would you spend your time doing the night before? I imagine you would gather with the people closest to you. You would want to share memories, express your heart to the people you have surrounded yourself with, and then you would want to say a heartfelt goodbye.

However, your one real last act would be to pray. It would be the most intimate, authentic, and heartfelt prayer you have ever uttered. You wouldn't hide anything anymore, and for maybe the first time, you would lay it all at the feet of Jesus.

On the last night of Jesus' life, he gathered with His disciples, then went to the garden to pray. He prayed for Himself to be glorified, then prayed for His disciples, and then He prayed for us. That's right. On the eve of His arrest, on the eve of His crucifixion, in His final prayer, Jesus chose to pray for you. Full of emotion, and with sweat dripping like blood dripping from his face, Jesus looked to Heaven and prayed for you.

Take a few moments to answer the following questions. Remember, these questions are designed to challenge you and will do so only if you are

completely honest with yourself.

Reflection

1. Do you feel like your prayer life is done more out of routine than a genuine desire to connect with God?
2. What would you pray for if you knew it was the last night of your life? Do you pray for these things now?
3. How does it make you feel knowing that Jesus prayed for you in the last moments of his life?

In the last moments of His life as a free man, Jesus chose to pray for you. Unfortunately, at times you may find yourself keeping Jesus in a box under your bed and kitchen table, only pulling him out because it is part of your routine.

The Challenge

As you go through your day, stop and pray from your heart every time God reveals something to you.

End of Day Reflection

1. How did this challenge make you shine?
2. What was the most difficult part of this challenge for you?
3. What was the most rewarding part of this challenge for you?
3. How do you feel this challenge grew your relationship with Jesus?
4. How can you use what you learned through this challenge to shine daily?

