

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of January 19, 2025
"Jesus, Our Intercessor"

OUR SAVIOR'S EXAMPLE

SundayRead John 17:14-23

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word." The life of Jesus during His first appearance on earth is a perfect example for all of His followers. It is significant that a major practice of Jesus was to get alone to pray to His Father in heaven. We read this in Mark 1:35: *"And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed."* Our Bible reading for today gives detail on one of those times of private prayer. He prayed for all of those who followed Him then, and also for all of those who would become His followers in the future. Obviously, that means that Jesus was praying for us with the same concern that He had for those who were right there with Him! What an amazing truth that is and what an example for us. Intercessory prayer is essential for Christians!

THRONE IN HEAVEN

MondayRead Romans 8:30-35

"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." In his letter to the Roman believers, Paul emphasizes that our Lord, at the right hand of God the Father in His throne in heaven, is praying for us. What an incentive that is in our daily lives. It emphasizes that truth of II Chronicles 16:9, that tells us that "the eyes of God are seeking those whose hearts are perfect toward Him. If we live with a constant awareness of God's watchful eye, it will have a deep effect on our decision making in the conduct of our lives. Nothing escapes the eyes of God! Seeing God's throne in heaven is one of the great thrills awaiting believers at God's designated time in the future; our blessed hope!

FATHER IN HEAVEN

TuesdayRead Matthew 6:7-13

"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." This is one of the amazing truths of which we read in God's Holy Word. It is part of the teaching of Jesus on how to pray. His disciples had asked Him to teach them to pray, and this was part of His response. By starting the prayer by referring to God as Father, He placed an emphasis on the fact that believers are in God's family. That is a very special relationship. We all have earthly families, and we know the special bond that brings. What a joy to know that our worship services are a family gathering. Our earthly family gathering provide special memories, and our heavenly family gatherings for worship and

fellowship do the same! Obviously, that brings delight to the heart of God! All of God's children should make a special effort to be with the church family to honor and please our Father in heaven.

PRIVATE PRAYER

Wednesday Read Luke 6:10-12

"And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God." God's instructions for prayer, he distinguishes between private prayer and public prayer. On this occasion of private prayer, Jesus prayed all night. That would suggest that He went into great detail in talking with His Father in heaven. Imagine that He prayed for wisdom in His personal life as to when and where He should be and what He should do in terms of fulfilling God's eternal plans. Obviously, time would permit him to engage in prayer for many other individuals.

GOD'S WILL

Thursday Read Matthew 26:34-39

"And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." This is an example of Jesus praying for the will of God for His own life. He was on earth to do the will of God. We know that His time on earth was to share God's love as mentioned in John 3:16: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* His appearing on earth gives to all people the possibility of having eternal life, to have victory over physical death. The best life for any individual is to fulfill God's plan. That begins by receiving Jesus and that results in a regenerated spirit and a daily hunger for God! Being born of the Spirit by receiving Christ assures a person of the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER PARTNERSHIPS

Friday Read Acts 3:1-5

"Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour." Just as private prayer is a major part of a believer's life, we can conclude from today's Bible reading, that prayer partnerships are a part of God's plan for His people. To team up with a fellow believer in prayer will have an impact on the lives of those for whom we are praying. I feel strongly that we have all benefitted from the appeals of prayer partners. Imagine how God in heaven enjoys and appreciates seeing two or three of His children getting together to speak with Him. The lives of

those prayer partners are surely strengthened and enriched! With whom would God like you to partner in prayer?

CORPORATE PRAYER

SaturdayRead Acts 12:10-15

"And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying." Here is a vivid example of a person benefitting from the prayers of those believers who had joined hearts in prayer in a private residence. I think it is noticeable that Peter, who was the beneficiary of their prayers, went to the house of Mary. He wanted to share with them how God had answered their prayers; that personal testimony of Peter had to be a real blessing to all who heard him. Corporate prayer today is just as important as it was then.