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BIBLE STUDY

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**“JESUS WAS PRAYING ALONE”**

**Luke 9:18-36**

***Luke 9:18 "And it came to pass, as he was alone praying, his disciples were with him: and he asked them, saying, Whom say the people that I am?"***

This means that Jesus had removed from the multitude and prayed alone. Private prayer was an essential part of Jesus’ daily routine and, guided by his example, we should set aside some private time to pray each and every day. Jesus prayed in church (Luke 4:16). Jesus prayed outside of church (Luke 22:14-20). Jesus prayed by himself (Mark 5:30). Jesus prayed before he preached (Mark 1:35,39). Jesus prayed before he chose his Twelve Apostles (Luke 6:12). Jesus prayed for others (Luke 22:32). Jesus prayed with Scripture (Luke 4:8,10-11,12). Jesus prayed at pivotal moments. Jesus prayed before he began his public ministry with 40 days of prayer in the desert (Luke 4:1-13). Jesus prayed at the crucial moment when it was time to conclude his ministry in Galilee and embark on the fateful journey to Jerusalem (Luke 9:28). Jesus prayed at Gethsemane on the night before he died (Luke 22:41-46). Jesus prayed as he was dying. When he hung on the cross, he prayed, “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34), and then with his last breath he prayed, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit” (Luke 23:46). Jesus was a man of prayer.  He prayed from the beginning to the end of his life, with others and by himself, and particularly at every crucial moment of his life. Jesus has given us an example. As he has done, so we should also do. When He finished praying. He asked His disciples an important question about His identity. This is the most important question in all of Christendom. Your answer can seal your doom in hell or save you.

***Luke 9:19 "They answering said, John the Baptist; but some [say], Elias; and others [say], that one of the old prophets is risen again."***

***Luke 9:20 "He said unto them, But whom say ye that I am? Peter answering said, The Christ of God."***

As important as John the Baptist, Elijah. and the prophets were, none of them could save you. The people were confused. Looking at Jesus, they saw a man. Matthew gives a more explicit answer from Peter,

***Matthew 16:16 "And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."***

Jesus replies to Peter that flesh and blood had not revealed this to Peter. but the Father. In saying this, Peter has said: You are God's Son who has taken on flesh to live among us.

***Luke 9:21 "And he straitly charged them, and commanded [them] to tell no man that thing;"***

The only person then or now who truly knows in his heart who Jesus is, is the one who the Father has revealed it to. Information is not revelation.

***Luke 9:22 "Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day."***

Jesus has just revealed (above) to them that He is truly the Messiah that they looked for: but in the very same breath. He tells them that He will suffer and die at the hands of His Jewish church. The elders, chief priests, and scribes made up the ruling body of the temple of that day. His own people will reject Him and even crucify Him. His promise to these disciples is that He will rise again on the third day.

***Luke 9:23 "And he said to [them] all, If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."***

This is a message that no one wanted to hear. It is still an unpopular message today. If we do not take up our cross every day, then we will not receive our crown and sit with Him in heavenly places. In our day, the message has wandered so far from this. Many preachers are bringing a message that if you receive Jesus, there will be nothing but good times. Our leader suffered. If we are true followers of His, we can expect no better. The walk with Jesus is a walk of denial to worldly things and, also, brings suffering in this world.

***1 Peter 4:1 “Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;”***

***2 Timothy 3:12 “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution”***

***Luke 9:24 "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it."***

We must be willing to give our very life, if necessary. The important life is the eternal life with Him. This few years we live here on the earth are but a blink in all of history. We must live and die staying true to God, so that our eternal life will be spent with Him.

***Luke 9:25 "For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?"***

Desires for things of this world in abundance usually cause us to sin in acquiring them. We may become very rich in worldly goods and yet lose our soul. It is a terrible trade off to trade perhaps 70 or 80 years of pleasures now for the thousands of years of all of eternity.

***Luke 9:26 "For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and [in his] Father's, and of the holy angels."***

Jesus is the Judge of all the world. If we do not accept Him as our Saviour and Lord here now, He will not recognize us as belonging to Him then. Our stand for Him must be taken here. If we truly believe in our heart and confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus and hold up His Word, then He will welcome us into His kingdom. If we do not uphold His Word and declare Him to be the Christ (Messiah), He will say get away from me, I never knew you. Jesus will declare the true believers (Christians) in front of His Father and the angels. We will be accepted and crowned by our Saviour, Jesus.

***Luke 9:27 "But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God."***

We do know that Peter, James, and John get a glimpse of the kingdom of God at the transfiguration. We, also, know that Stephen looked into heaven and saw the throne of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father just before he was stoned to death.

***Acts 7:55-56***

***55But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,***

***56And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.***

***Luke 9:28 "And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray."***

Always, when Jesus went aside. He took these three with Him. They seemed to be the closest to Him. Jesus went to the mountain to pray so that He could pray; in private. We might take a lesson from Jesus in this. The best prayers are the ones we pray in secret to God.

***Luke 9:29 "And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment [was] white [and] glistering."***

***Luke 9:30 "And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias:"***

This Light was showing who Jesus really is; the Light of the world. This could be likened unto the Shekinah. This Light that came from within Jesus was so bright that His clothes glistened. These two Old Testament men represented the law and the prophets.

***Luke 9:31 "Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem."***

These two came to discuss with Jesus the things which were about to happen in Jerusalem. Jesus' flesh did not look forward to the rejection and cruel force of the death on the cross. This was to help Peter, James, and John when remembering back that God still has everything under control. These 3 should draw an extra strength from this transfiguration on the mountain top.

***Luke 9:32 "But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him."***

They had been tired and went to sleep. On awakening, they saw this magnificent sight on the mountain: Jesus in all His glory and the two Old Testament representatives. Moses for the law and Elijah for the prophets.

***Luke 9:33 "And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias: not knowing what he said."***

Peter truly did not know what he said. Moses and Elijah were men, Jesus was the Son of God. You do not build tabernacles to men.

***Luke 9:34 "While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: and they feared as they entered into the cloud."***

***Luke 9:35 "And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him."***

This is while Peter was speaking that this cloud of the Almighty overshadowed them. When this cloud came so close and they knew this was the presence of God, it frightened the disciples. Even more frightening is the voice that comes from this cloud and says, "This is my beloved Son; hear him". All of this should have strengthened them when their test came. Peter, the one we would expect to be the greatest believer, will, in fact, deny that he even knew Jesus. This should be proof enough to these three forever of who Jesus is.

***Luke 9:36 "And when the voice was past, Jesus was found alone. And they kept [it] close, and told no man in those days any of those things which they had seen."***

They had seen the glory of God the Father overshadow Jesus and God, Himself, tell them that Jesus is His beloved Son and to listen to whatever He says. Perhaps because they assumed no one would believe and because Jesus told them not to tell it, at any rate, they did not mention this until after Jesus' resurrection. Jesus had chosen these three disciples to see things the others had not seen.

**QUESTIONS**

1. When Jesus was alone with the disciples and praying, what did He ask them?
2. What is the most important question in all Christendom?
3. When they answered Jesus' question, who did they say the people said He was?
4. What did Peter answer when Jesus asked, whom say ye that I am?
5. In verse 22. Jesus told them some terrible things would happen to Him. What were they?
6. He also told them He would rise from the grave on what day?
7. Who made up the ruling body of the temple in Jerusalem?
8. If any man will come after Jesus, they must do what daily?
9. In what way has the modern church wandered from this message?
10. The walk with Jesus is a walk of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and brings \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
11. We must live and die being true to whom?
12. If we are ashamed of Jesus and His Words here, what will happen in heaven?
13. What would cause Jesus to welcome us into His kingdom?
14. Who were some who did not taste death before they saw the kingdom?
15. Which three disciples went to the mountain with Jesus to pray?
16. What are the best prayers?
17. As Jesus prayed. what 2 miraculous things happened?
18. What could this Light be likened unto?
19. Who were the 2 men who talked to Jesus?
20. Who wanted to make three tabernacles?
21. Whose voice spoke from the cloud?
22. What did He say?