

2.3.BP(7).Devoted Prayer: Consecrating Self Daily to God. Mark 1:35-39.

Mark 1:35-39.

35 And **rising** very **early in the morning**, while it was **still dark**, he departed and went out to a **desolate place**, and (2. Consecrate Live: sacrifice your will) there **he prayed**. ³⁶ And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, ³⁷ and they found him and said to him, “**Everyone** is **looking** for you.” (3. Clear Calling: what is his purpose?) ³⁸ And he said to them, “Let us go on to the **next towns**, that I may preach there also, for that is **why** I came

out.” ³⁹ And he went throughout all Galilee, **preaching** in their synagogues and **casting** out **demons**. (1:35-39)

Background:

Today, we picture prayer as a mental exercise, a silent thinking that occurs, like meditation, alone in quiet solitude. However, the Biblical picture of prayer is not solitary but sacrificial— presenting yourself before the Lord God in his throne room. Before the enthroned God, there was an altar, and your one act was to offer to God what was precious and holy, whether it was an offering for guilt, a fellowship offering, or some other gift. Even prayers can be seen as putting your request on the altar before God and releasing it to his care. Faith in many ways occurs at the altar, where the man of faith offers himself up while making the request, thus surrendering one's

hopes, works, and ability to make the prayer come to pass. The prayer of faith offers oneself up on the altar that the Lord's will be done. So, when God presented to Abraham the word of promise that his own "Seed-Zara" would be multiplied as the starts of the heavens, Abraham had to respond to this promise in faith. That is, he had to relocate his trust from his Self and fleshly strength to rest upon this Seed-Zera. And, he had to surrender and give up to God all his hopes and desires, all his plans and efforts to accomplish the building of his line by his own power and strength. Only then could he look to the Lord God and his promised "Seed-Zera" to accomplish all that was promised to Abraham.

In this way, we will consider perhaps the most *holy* of prayers. For, the prayer of the disciple is as intimate as a son appearing before the King, crawling up on his lap, and asking for what only his Father God could provide.

This prayer of Devotion, as Jesus himself modeled, becomes a regular part of the Disciple's life and a key feature of his life in Mashiach's Kingdom Family.

And, it is fundamentally different from the detached, anonymous and cheapened prayer that has developed in the last days of the church. In the rich modern church, entitled supplicants would demand as their right prosperity and wealth.

However, the prayer of Devotion, which we see Jesus offer to God as his first sacrifice of the day, shaped his entire life and ministry. Not to secure for himself earthly baubles but to align him with the heart and purposes of His heavenly Father.

Focus:

- 1) Commune with God. 1:35.
- 2) Consecrate Life: Sacrifice your Will and Purpose. 1: 36-38.

3) Clear Calling: what is His purpose? 1:39

Consider:

Remember that as a young disciple, your “infancy” involves *knowing* your Lord and your Father God by walking with Him. So, this *devotional prayer*, demonstrate here to us by the Lord Mashiach himself as he met with his Father and *gave himself up to him*, is not just a habit he religiously practiced. It was a primary way that He drew near to the Father to know him, to align his heart with the Father’s purpose, and to always surrender to His Father a life devoted to building His House and Kingdom.

If you are a disciple of Jesus Mashiach, the Son of David, you have in your *family background* the predisposition of King David, the man after God’s own heart. For, it is the *fruit of our lineage* to draw near and seek the *heart* of our heavenly

Father, to wait on Him, to desire Him, to give Him our lives along with our prayers, that in praying, “Your will be done” (Matthew 6:) we also say, “Here I am, send me” and “I have come to do your will, O God.”

Moreover, David’s “heart after God” did not instantly form the moment he stepped on the throne. Rather, seen in the record of David’s Psalms recorded in scripture, David’s daily practice was to *give himself* to the Lord that he might know the Lord’s own heart, that he might know and do all that was precious to the Lord God. This David did from his youth in the quiet watches and solitude of his shepherding, and here is where David became a man after God’s own heart.

So, as a young disciple beginning your walk with God, even as you walk in the wilderness and battlefield that is the Last Days landscape as the whole world is tested. In this wilderness, be like David. Be like Jesus Mashiach. Devote yourself to

the Lord as a young disciple that your heart will be ready for the greater tests and the many kingdom victories that will be yours as a man after God's own heart, doing the impossible works that God has for you in this great Kingdom struggle!

So, let's learn how to seek the Lord in "Devotional Prayer" as we see here demonstrated by the Lord Jesus Mashiach.

1) Commune with God. 1:35.

First, consider what makes Jesus Mashiach outstanding among his peers, what separates him in his prayer life from sleeping and comfortable companions who still sleep in this "very early" time in the morning (1:35). While the whole world sleeps, Jesus Mashiach "rises" the dark and goes to a "desolate place" to "pray."

Now, you are right that Jesus could have prayed in the comfort of his own sleeping area, staying where the others were. But, to think this is to miss the whole point of Jesus's prayer. Jesus

seeks out a “desolate place” away from the warmth and comforts of the home because his purpose is not simply to lift up light words spoken in ease and comfort. No, his purpose was *to commune* with His heavenly Father, to meet the Lord God in a holy time shared only between the two of them. A private time where he could give himself fully to His Father in the Father’s very presence.

In this way, see your time of Devotional Prayer as a time spent in the actual presence of God. In the private and secluded place, your spiritual predecessors—Jesus and King David—discovered that the presence and nearness of God is most acutely experienced. King David prayed with the realization that this world is a “dry and weary land where there is no water” (Psalm 63:1)—but time in this Devotional Prayer in the Lord’s presence is to immerse yourself in the presence of the One

who is the “fountain of living water” (Jeremiah 2:13).

So, as a disciple in your *infancy*, do not fear the times of lonely solitude but rather, welcome these as your private audience before the King. And, give him what he values most, your heart and life given to Him for his *special service* to build His house and kingdom.

2) Clear Calling: what is His purpose? 1:39 1: 36-38.

Now, we do not know the exact words and prayers that passed between heaven and earth as the Lord Jesus Mashiach presented himself before his God and Father. But, we see the very obvious fruit, the unique way and glory of the Kingdom.

For, Jesus Mashiach sought the Father’s presence to know his heart, and it was to this heavenly wisdom to which Jesus aligned his own life and actions.

So, when the group of his disciples finally finds Jesus in this desolate place of prayer, they are full

of reasonable and pressing agendas of what Jesus must do next for that day. They say, “Everyone is looking for you” (36) as the reason for their desperate actions, likely thinking that Jesus would fall in step with the pressing needs of the crowd and the compelling social pressures.

But, Jesus responds to them as a man who is free from the dictates of the crowd. He is not simply a popular figure, driven by the crowd and motivated by the *fleshly urge* to blend in, to accommodate, and to satisfy the popular purposes of man. Instead, he is a “man after God’s own heart,” whose passion still warms his own heart and guides his way forward. So, he says unexpectedly, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also” (1:38).

Behind this unexpected direction is not just a need to be contrary. Rather, Jesus explains, “That is **why** I came out.”

Having spent time with His Father, Jesus knows for sure the “Why” behind his actions. He knows the Father’s purpose guiding his ministry, the purpose that calls him to forego the popularity of staying in one spot to appease the needy crowd.

So, do you want to be a disciple so intimately acquainted with the Father’s presence to know deeply the very “heart” of your father and his purposes for you? Do you want the Father and the Lord Jesus to confide in you their greater purposes, the higher reasons driving the Kingdom strategy and the very campaigns they are planning to launch?

If you want to be *this* kind of disciple, a disciple of the battle-tested lineage of King David, who fought the Lord’s battles to protect and secure what the Lord’s heart desired? Of the Lord Jesus Mashiach, who came to earth to show us how to battle and conquer the *devious Serpent*, who prior to the Kingdom *pillaged humanity with impunity*

but now, at the Kingdom's advance, has been "put under our feet" (Romans 16:20) and has "fled" as the saints have resisted him (James 4:7)?

To be shaped and imprinted with the Father God's own heart and passion, meet him in devotional prayer.

3) Consecrate Life: Sacrifice your Will and Purpose. Romans 12:1-2

Yes, your "Devotional Prayer" should be:

- A regular part of your life, perhaps even daily as it likely was for the Lord Jesus.
- A private time to spend with the Lord in seclusion, away from the social presence of others that you may devote yourself fully to the Lord and his presence.
- A seeking of the Lord's purpose for yourself.

Granted, your devotional prayer should be all these things, but how should you actually pray when you come before the Lord in "Devotional Prayer"?

Consider the words of Paul as a template for such a “Devotional Prayer” which is really a prayer of consecration. You are not just offering before the Lord and putting on his altar not simply gifts of worship or praise; not simply prayers as requests; nor are you presenting to him thanksgiving. Rather, you are consecrating to the Lord your whole life, given to him as a “living sacrifice” that you may be used to know and to do His will for that day. Consider Paul’s prayer of consecration:

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your **spiritual worship**.^[b] 2 Do not be conformed to this world,^[c] but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may **discern what is the will of God**, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:1-2

To present your body, the entirety of your being, to the Lord as a “living sacrifice” (12:1) means that your life is *consecrated*—like Samuel given to serve in the Temple, your life is a “living sacrifice,” is given over to God—not to live for your own Self-important purposes but to live for the will of God! Devote yourself to God to know the heart and mind of God.

Case Study: I remember clearly that night in my late 20's, as I sat before the Lord in quiet consecration, waiting on the Lord in my darkened room, the island breeze blowing through my windows. I wanted to know what was on the Lord's heart, and he answered that he had a precious task to be done. There was a blockage keeping His Jewish people from their rightful Mashiach, Jesus.

Satisfying His heart's desire took me from Hawaii to Chicago, to doctoral work spent in the

Jewish community for nearly a decade doing fieldwork to understand what kept his people from Mashiach. After many years, it turned out that Israel had not yet realized that God's promise to David that he would "raise up Seed-Zera" for David according to duty-*yibbum* and redemptive right-*geullah* would result in a son whose paternity was of two lineages—of the Redeemer raising up Seed (God/ Judah/ Boaz) and the one for whom seed was raised up (David/ Er/ Mahlon). So, Jesus Mashiach, raised up by the Holy Spirit from David's own genetic material, was both the Son of David (in the flesh) and the Son of God (in the Spirit).

Question:

Further Discovery:

