

PARALLELS IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

- I. One of the basic teachings in the Sermon on the Mount was prayer as set forth in Matt. 6.
 - A. Jesus emphasized that prayer should not be done “to be seen of men.”
 1. Then He gave the model prayer, which includes some of the basic need of pray-ers.
 2. Luke’s account of the prayer is slightly different, in that it is preceded by a request of the disciples to be taught how to pray.
 - B. Jesus, the Author of prayer, and Paul, an Advocate of prayer, have a few parallels in their prayer lives.
- II. Now let’s give attention to these Parallels in Prayer.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, both PRAY-ERS had a common enemy that provided incentive to pray.

- A. It was Satan, the devil, that immediately tempted Jesus after His baptism, who shortly left Jesus “for a season. Matt. 4:(1-10) 11; cf Luke 4:11
 1. The devil entered the heart of Judas Iscariot, to betray Jesus for a few pieces of silver. John 13:2
 - a. Jesus revealed to ALL the apostles that ONE of them would betray Him. John 13:21
 - b. Jesus’ actions showed that Judas was that one. vs. 23-27
 2. Judas eventually recognized that he sinned in the betrayal. Matt. 27:1-5
 3. Now, the chapter before this betrayal records the account of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, praying to the Father in heaven because of the action of Satan and Judas.
- B. Later, in the New Testament, we have the account of the apostle Paul who had a thorn in the flesh as a messenger of Satan, who also was troubling Paul. 2 Cor. 12:1-7

II. 2nd, both PRAY-ERS petitioned the Father for three times.

- A. In Gethsemane, Jesus prayed 3 times with reference to His death. Matt. 26:36
 1. In His sorrow, He prayed that the cup might pass from Him. v. 39
 2. In His second prayer He prayed the same thing with the addition of the statement about His “drinking” it. v. 42; cf Matt. 20:20-22
 3. The exact words of the third prayer not recorded. v. 44
- B. What did Jesus mean about the cup “passing” from Him?
 1. The most common thought today is that Jesus, **in His human side**, was asking God to find another way to save the world if He could, instead of Him having to die.
 - a. If this be true, then WHY did He have to die anyway, with God answering His prayer, as inspiration says His prayer **was** answered? Heb. 5:7
 - b. Even AT the events of this night, Jesus **KNEW** and **REVEALED** that it was decreed from heaven that **He had to die on the cross for the remission of man’s sins.**
 - 1) “The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?” (John 18:11)
 - 2) He could have called for legions of angels to prevent His death, but “How then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, and **thus it must be?**”

- 3) Jesus said He “**must** go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be **killed**, and be raised again the third day.” (Matt. 16:21)
2. THEN, some believe the obvious alternative, **that** Jesus was praying that (1) He might be *strengthened*, and (2) **That** His suffering might *not be prolonged*, as God could take Him through it, making it short-lived as was the usual custom of hastening death.
- a. The usual way of crucifixion was to nail one to the cross, and then break his legs, **as** was done with the two thieves. John 19:31-32
 - b. When the soldiers came to Jesus, they saw He was “dead already”, and His bones were not broken, and in this way, even another prophecy was being fulfilled, that not a bone in His body would be broken. John 19:33-37
 - c. Thus, in this way Jesus’ prayer was being answered as Jesus’ agony was not prolonged through an extra long time, as God did not forsake Him, but carried Him “from” or “through” death to complete the divine plan of redemption. (Read and analyze Heb. 5:7-9)
 - d. THIS VIEW IS THE OBVIOUS EXPLANATION TO THE MEANING OF JESUS’ PRAYER.
3. A. FINAL note of comparison is, that just as Jesus prayed three times in the garden Paul prayed 3 times that Satan’s messenger to HIM might be removed, but God gave Him grace and strength to bear it. 2 Cor. 12:7-10

CONCLUSION

- I. The examples of the Lord and the apostle Paul should be great examples of prayers being offered to the throne of God.
- II. Whether God gives the desired answer, or a better answer, or even delays His answer, is left up to God in His wisdom.

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