

WHAT IS PRAYER - FOR THE DISCIPLES OF JESUS?

A. **Habits of the Heart in the life of Jesus:** *Discerning (evolving) patterns in the life of Jesus which become normative for his disciples so that they may faithfully live out their Baptismal promise to God made through and with and in the name of Jesus.*

1. *Jesus – a faithful Jew and a man of prayer:*

- a. ‘When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord’ (Luke 2:22).
- b. ‘Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival’ (Luke 2:41-42).
- c. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me” (Luke 4:16-18).

2. *Jesus – formed by the Holy Spirit:*

- a. ‘Now when all the people had been baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased” (Luke 3:21-22).
- b. ‘Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness where for forty days he was tempted by the devil’ (Luke 4:1-2).
- c. ‘Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country’ (Luke 4:14).

3. *Jesus – his personal prayer:*

- a. ‘In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.’ (Mark 1:35).
- b. ‘He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray as John taught his disciples.” He said to them, “When you pray, say: Father,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Give us each day our daily bread,
And forgive us our sins,
For we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us
And do not bring us to the time of trial.” (Luke 11: 1-4).

4. Jesus – instituting a new ‘Liturgy’ (communal prayer) separate from the Temple Liturgy:

- a. When the hour had come, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them saying “This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me”. And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood ...” (Luke 22: 14-16, 19-20).

B. Habits of the Heart in the life of the Church: Imitating Jesus so as to truly be his presence in the world – his people, his body and the temple of his Holy Spirit.

‘Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in the newness of life’ (Romans 6:3-4).

‘The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives he lives to God. So, you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus’ (Romans 6:10-11).

1. The Church, the community of Jesus – a community of prayer formed by the Holy Spirit:

- a. ‘When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability’ (Acts 2:1-4).
- b. ‘Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them ...’ (Acts 4:5-6,14).
- c. ‘They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers’ (Acts 2:42).
- d. ‘For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me”. In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup in the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.’ (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).