

TEACH US TO PRAY

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” (Luke 1:1, NIV)

The disciples had accompanied Jesus for 2-3 years on his wanderings. Together they had walked, sailed, managed the crowds and suffered hardship. They had seen Jesus at work – his teaching, his healings, his conflicts, his power over evil spirits. They had seen the overwhelming demands placed on Jesus by so many who came to him with their questions, problems, needs. They had seen how Jesus balanced his super busy public life with a prayerful private life. In the preceding chapters, Luke records four instances where Jesus withdrew to be alone and pray (5:16, 6:12, 9:18, 9:28). Now Jesus had begun to transfer some of his work to them (10:1-20). And the disciples began to realize that if they wanted to do Jesus’ works, they also needed this profound rootedness in prayer.

These men, who were always competing for first place among themselves, were out of their depth here and had the humility to simply ask Jesus for a lesson on “prayer 101”.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, as I embark on this journey of prayer, guide me by your Spirit so that as I pour out my heart to you, I may sense your response and learn to see what you see and care about the things you care about.