

life is many things, in reality, but at the heart of it all is the relationship with the Father and it is a life of prayer. If that is what His life was, should ours be different?

II. Discussion:

A. Some biblical data. Listed below is a partial accounting of times when the Lord rested, prayed, or renewed the fellowship with the Father. I cannot comment on them in this writing other than a minimal mention of the occasions:

1. Mark 1:35, Luke 5:16--His early ministry
2. Mark 3:13, Luke 6:12--preparing the twelve
3. Mark 6:46, Luke 9:18, John 6:15---following the 5,000
4. Mark 9:2, Luke 9:18, Matthew 17---the transfiguration
5. Mark 14:32, etc. ---the garden
6. John 11:41---at the tomb of Lazarus
7. Matthew 11:25---before inviting His own to rest in Him
8. Mark 6:31---retirement after the death of John the Baptist
9. Mark 9:29---advice about exorcism
10. Luke 21:37---retreat after a day's teaching.

It seems obvious that prayer was His personal source of strength and force...there seems to be no life action in which prayer was not involved.

B. The content of His praying is largely seen in three areas--where we have enough data given:

1. Thanksgiving
2. Request for particular favor
3. Conversation with God the Father

C. Some lessons:

1. To be close to God while we are on the pathway requires communication.
2. Prayer is the normal, happy privilege, not a chore or "duty"
3. Prayer more adequately prepares us for all we need do
4. Prayer reassures us of God's interest and direction

III. Conclusion: As the Lord Jesus prayed, so we may pray. It is an intensely personal matter that deserves a high point in our living. We cannot afford to try to live without it.