

Some of Jesus' prayers and sayings about prayer¹

Prayers of thanksgiving, glorifying God

Matt 11:25

Jesus thanks his Father

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants;

Luke 10:21

Jesus rejoices

²¹ At that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

John 11:41-42

Jesus thanks his Father, praying out loud so that others might be converted

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.'

John 12:28

Jesus calls for God's Glory

²⁸ Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

Jesus blesses food or gives thanks before sharing

- Before Feeding of 5000 (Matt 14:19; Mark 6:31-44; Luke 9:16; John 6:11)
- Feeding of 4000 in Matt and Mark (Matt 15:36; Mark 8:6)
- And at the last supper in Matt, Mark and Luke (Matt 26:26-27, Mark 14:22; Luke 22:17-20)
- Before supper at Emmaus (Luke 24:30)

Final Prayers for Disciples and for himself

Luke 22:31-32

Jesus' prayer for Simon Peter

³¹ "Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, ³² but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

John 17

1-5: Jesus prays for himself and the purpose of his mission

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people,

¹ All quotations from the NRSVA

to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

6-19: Jesus Prays for his disciples and their protection

⁶ I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost,^[c] so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵ I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

20-26: Jesus prays for all who will believe

²⁰ I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. **²² The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.** ²⁴ Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵ 'Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.'

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane or Mount of Olives – Synoptic Gospels

Matthew 26:36-44

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' ³⁷ **He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸ Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.'** ³⁹ **And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.'** ⁴⁰ Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? ⁴¹ Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial;^[e] the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' ⁴² Again he went away for the second time

and prayed, 'My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.'⁴³ Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.⁴⁴ So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words.

Mark 14:32-39

³² They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.'³³ **He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated.**³⁴ **And he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.'**³⁵ **And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.**³⁶ **He said, 'Abba, ^[u] Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.'**³⁷ He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour?'³⁸ **Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; ^[u] the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.'**³⁹ And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words.⁴⁰ And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him.

Luke 22:39-46

³⁹ He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him.⁴⁰ When he reached the place, he said to them, 'Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.'^[g]⁴¹ Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed,⁴² **'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.'**⁴³ **Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength.**⁴⁴ **In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.**⁴⁵ When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief,⁴⁶ and he said to them, 'Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.'

Three prayers on the Cross (from 7 sayings)

Luke 23:34

³⁴ Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

Matt 27:46 [Psalm 22:1]

⁴⁶ And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

Mark 15:34 [Psalm 22:1]

³⁴ At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

Luke 23:46 [Psalm 31:5]

⁴⁶ Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last.

Jesus on perseverance in prayer and the promise that prayers will be heard

Luke 11:5-13

⁵ And he said to them, ‘Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, “Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.” ⁷ And he answers from within, “Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.” ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ ‘So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for ^[e] a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit^[f] to those who ask him!’

Matthew 7:7-11

⁷ ‘Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? ¹⁰ Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? ¹¹ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

Matthew 18:19-20

¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.’

Matthew 21:21-22

¹ Jesus answered them, ‘Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only will you do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, “Be lifted up and thrown into the sea”, it will be done. ²² Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.’

Mark 11:23-26

²³ Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain, “Be taken up and thrown into the sea”, and if you do not doubt in your heart, but believe that what you say will come to pass, it will be done for you. ²⁴ So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

²⁵ ‘Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.’

Luke 18:1–14***Parable of the unjust Judge***

18 Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, ‘In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, “Grant me justice against my opponent.” ⁴ For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, “Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.”’ ⁶ And the Lord said, ‘Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?’

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax-Collector

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰ ‘Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, “God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.” ¹³ But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.’

Luke 22:40

⁴⁰ When he reached the place, he said to them, ‘Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.’

John 14:12–14

¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me ^[e] for anything, I will do it.

John 15:7

⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

John 15:16

¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.