

Teacher Devotional

Lesson 3 - I Will Pray!

BIBLE LESSON: Jesus' Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane - Mark 14:32-42

BIBLE VERSE: "I love the LORD because he hears my voice and my prayer for mercy." Psalm 116:1 (NLT)

Imagine being sick and writing a shopping list for some friends to pick up some things from the store for you. Since you are contagious, you don't let them come in. You slip the list to them through the cracked open door and before long, they return with the items you need. This is how many of us treat prayer. We give God a list of needs and we wait for Him to return with the stuff we asked for. But we are barely cracking open the door of prayer's potential when we do that. We do not have to insulate God from our sickness, our hurt feelings, our raw emotions, or our sin. He wants to come into our lives in a deeper way. Open the door wide when you pray to God. Let Him in. You don't have to hold anything back from Him. It is okay to be upset, worried, angry, sad, joyous, giddy, or goofy. It's okay to ask for things that are unlikely, unwise, or even selfish. But there is an important next step after praying this way.

Jesus didn't pray piously, in polite, oft-repeated phrases. He groaned and cried, and begged to not have to do what God had placed in front of Him. But in the end, after emptying His emotions into His prayer, He submitted. He tore up His shopping list for God and simply accepted whatever God wanted to do.

God wants us to give Him all of our troubles and worries. Then we can let go of them and follow His plan for us. Doing what God asks, might be difficult sometimes, but God's plan always leads to the best life possible.

"Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you." 1 Peter 5:7 (NLT)

"I cry out to the LORD; I plead for the LORD's mercy. I pour out my complaints before him and tell him all my troubles. When I am overwhelmed, you alone know the way I should turn. Wherever I go, my enemies have set traps for me." Psalm 142:1-3 (NLT)