

I. Jesus has the authority to call us to pray

- A. Jesus’ prayer life was his highest priority

“Jesus often withdrew to lonely places to pray.” (Luke 5:16)

- B. Jesus often went away to pray privately

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.” (Mark 1:35)

- C. Jesus knew that prayer was communion with God

“This is how you should pray; ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.’” (Matthew 6:10)

- D. Jesus prayed with great passion and persistence

“Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.” (Luke 18:1)

- E. Jesus prayed for strength for spiritual battles

- F. Jesus prayed for guidance for decisions

- G. Jesus prayed for the words to speak

“So Jesus said, ‘When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know who I am and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.’” (John 8:28)

II. Jesus has the authority to send us out as his representatives

- A. We are called to be disciples of Jesus who follow him

- B. We are called to be representatives of Jesus who speak for him

“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.” (2 Corinthians 5:20)

- C. Jesus calls ordinary people to represent him

“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.” (Acts 4:13)

- D. Jesus calls weak people to be used by him

III. Jesus has the authority to allow us to minister with him

- A. The apostles were with Jesus when he preached

- B. The apostles were with Jesus when he healed the sick

- C. The apostles were with Jesus when he cast out demons

D. The apostles were with Jesus when they saw the power of God

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.” (Ephesians 3:20)