

The Blessing of Prayer

READ JOHN 20:11-18

In the writings of Matthew and Luke, we see that other women were with Mary Magdalene at the tomb of Jesus, but the authors of Mark and John chose to zero in on Mary. For our purposes today, we are going to look at John's recordings.

Prayer is the gift of communicating with our Lord through worship, sharing, listening, requesting, thanksgiving, and choosing contentment in His presence. If we were to attempt to capture all the examples of prayer in God's Word, we would spend days in study.

#1. Mary was intentional. She went to the location where her Savior had been laid.

#2. She looked. She wanted to see Him. She wanted to serve Him, even when she thought He was dead. She had reverence for Him.

#3. She included others.

#4. Others went home, but Mary chose to stay. She lingered where her Lord had been.

#5. When she was postured in a lower position, she had a supernatural encounter, and she continued to look for Jesus.

#6. In this position, Jesus spoke her name, and she recognized Him.

#7. Mary spoke the Truth of who He is. "Rabboni" (Teacher)

#8 Jesus gave her a message.

#9 Because of her staying, stooping low, looking for Jesus, and hearing from Jesus, she is now ready to share the bigger message. "Jesus is alive."

Acts 1:12-26 and Acts 2:42-47

READ ACTS 1:12-26

#1. In Acts 1, they just witnessed the remarkable ascension of Jesus, after spending close time listening to Him.

#2. With one accord, they gathered in a corporate closet, devoting themselves to prayer. God's Word version says in verse 14: "*The apostles had a **single purpose** as they devoted themselves to **prayer**.*"

#3. They acknowledged Scripture as Peter spoke: "For it is written,..."

#4. They agreed on the request to be made.

#5. They humbled themselves before the Lord and asked for His answer.

#6. They responded to the Lord's leading.

READ ACTS 2:42-47

#1. They were devoted to fellowship and listening to the teaching of the Truth, as they broke bread and prayed together.

#2. Miracles took place, and they were in awe.

#3. They were united.

#4. They cared for each other.

#5. They broke bread together with hearts of gratitude and gladness, and delighted in one another.

#6. They praised God together through it all.

#7. The Lord increased their numbers.

**The Blessing of Prayer
Our Time**

BREAKOUT PRAYER #1

Use this time for independent prayer and time with The Lord

1. Be intentional in being with Jesus. Linger.
2. Look for Jesus. Expect Him.
3. Position (kneel, sit, bow)
4. Continue looking for/listening for/expecting Jesus.
5. Speak the Truth of Who Jesus is
6. In the next breakout, briefly share what Jesus gave you here

BREAKOUT PRAYER #2

Please use this time together to center in prayer for Transform

1. You just spent a close time with Jesus and listening to Him
2. Praise and Thanksgiving
3. Choose to be devoted to and caring for one another in this time of unity
4. Scripture: *Lord, You are my God; I will exalt You and praise Your name, for in perfect faithfulness You have done wonderful things, things planned long ago.*
Isaiah 25:1
5. Requests for the Transform Course (leaders, participants, leadership team(s), FICM Board, future, growth)
6. Break Bread /Communion Together