



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

# Prayer is Fundamental

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Mark 1:32-35 “That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.”

I’ve heard it said that if you want to embarrass evangelical Christians, just ask them about their prayer lives. Unfortunately, I think that’s true. We tend to treat prayer as a supplemental activity in our lives – an activity we fit in around meals or while driving. But when you examine the life of Jesus, you find that prayer was fundamental, not supplemental, in his life.

Mark 1 records the beginning of Jesus’ ministry when large crowds pressed upon him. Verses 32-34 tell us that one evening Jesus spent all night healing and casting out demons – talk about an exhausting day of ministry. You’d expect Jesus to sleep in the next day but verse 35 tells us that instead Jesus rose “very early in the morning...and went out to a desolate place, and there He prayed.”

Jesus wasn’t against sleep, in fact he often took naps. But this verse shows us the order of importance in His ministry. He needed prayer more than He needed sleep. When He had to choose between the two, He chose prayer. If prayer was that crucial in the life and ministry of the Son of God shouldn’t it be in the lives of His followers as well? I’m not sure what competes with prayer in your life, but I’d encourage you to follow the example of Jesus and do whatever it takes to get alone with your Father and pray.

**September 20, 2020**  
Devotion



Coordinates with Resources: 9C