

# LITURGY

## Liturgy Bytes—Prayer, Jesus & the Pope



Why does Jesus pray? Our idea of prayer is almost always related to what we need. However, Jesus shows us a different way of praying based on developing a relationship. We all understand relationships that we build. The more we feel loved and succeed in loving, the more we feel that life is livable, something we can face. Jesus invests time in relationships with the people around him, but he also invests time with the relationship that he has with his Father. As evidenced in Scripture, he devotes much time to God the Father in prayer.

Another question: Is prayer a duty for us or a relational investment? Notice in some of the Gospel stories that people wanted to always touch Jesus. They felt a power coming forth from him which healed them. Those who pray are mysteriously filled with a power that heals even those around them. This was true for Jesus, but it is also true for each of us.

The Pope urges us to keep in mind and remember that Jesus prays for us. He gives some examples from Scripture:

Jesus chooses the apostles after a night of prayer. The Pope comments that there is no criterion in this choice other than prayer.

The Apostles sometimes become a concern for Jesus. However, since he received them from the Father after prayer, he carries them in his heart, even in their errors or when they fall.

With those two quick Gospel stories above, Pope Francis tells us that Jesus not only wants us to pray as he prays, but assures us that, even if our attempts at prayers are completely vain and ineffective, we can always count on Jesus' prayer. Jesus' love, Jesus' prayer for each one of us does not cease, but rather becomes more intensive. When there is a difficulty, when we feel so many distractions – Jesus is praying for each of us!

Have a prayerful, blessed, safe and healthy week! ~*Michele Hall*