

Pathetic Prayer

Who taught you to pray? What's changed as you've gotten older, and what's stayed the same?

Read Mark 14:32-42.

1. Why did Jesus leave His disciples in Gethsemane while He went to pray?
 - A. His disciples were pathetic at praying.
 - B. He didn't leave all of them there; He took three with Him.
 - C. The disciples were still arguing about who was the greatest.
 - D. Jesus had a secret hideout He didn't want to share with them.
 - E. What Jesus was about to go through would be too much for them.
 - F. Jesus expected them to pray where they were.
 - G. They would serve as a decoy when the night time mob came for Him.
 - H. They couldn't keep up with Jesus.
 - I. Other.

2. Why did Jesus take Peter, James, and John with Him?
 - A. They had well-developed prayer lives.
 - B. These three were part of His inner circle.
 - C. They had been misbehaving, so this was their punishment.
 - D. Jesus yearned for their support.
 - E. This would move them from "pathetic prayers" to "perfect prayers."
 - F. They had been with Him on the Mount of Transfiguration.
 - G. To expose them to greater intimacy with God the Father.
 - H. To narrow down who would sit on the right and left of His throne.
 - I. Other.

3. Why did Jesus pray for God to remove the cup of suffering (vs. 35-36)?
 - A. It was too much.
 - B. Christ's humanity couldn't handle the weight of all the world's sins.
 - C. No one has ever done anything this extreme.
 - D. It's a natural human reaction to tough times.
 - E. Taking all the sins of the world on Himself was opposite His divinity.
 - F. Why not? Aren't we supposed to be able to pray about anything?
 - G. Jesus didn't think He would survive.
 - H. Christ feared He would be forever separated from His Father.
 - I. Other.

4. Rank the following super-difficult experiences Christ suffered.

(1—most difficult to 8—least difficult)

- _____ The Garden of Gethsemane
- _____ The crucifixion
- _____ 40 days of wilderness temptation by Satan
- _____ The beheading of His cousin, John the Baptist
- _____ Peter betraying Him 3 times in one night
- _____ Attempts to make Him king
- _____ Oppression from the religious leaders
- _____ Other: _____

5. Why didn't God the Father remove this bitter cup from Jesus?

- A. He knew Jesus could handle it.
- B. They had agreed on this together before Christ came to earth.
- C. It wasn't the Father's will, and Jesus prayed, "Thy will be done."
- D. Christ's prayer simply expressed His pathos—His intense feelings.
- E. Humans couldn't be saved without God suffering this bitter anguish.
- F. Consider what God the Father was going through at this time!
- G. This was the key reason Jesus came to earth (Matthew 1:21).
- H. Other.

6. What's your response to, "Could you stay awake and pray with me?"

- A. Sure.
- B. I'll try.
- C. No.
- D. I'm good for 5-10 minutes.
- E. I wouldn't know what to say.
- F. You have no idea how tired I am.
- G. When have you prayed for me?
- H. Other.

7. What suffering would you ask God to take from you?

8. Who do you ask to pray for you? Who asks you to pray for them?