



WHEN CAN I TALK TO GOD?

Alabama Gulf Coast Christian Academy

Guest Speaker: Ray Reynolds (Gulf Shores, AL)

Thursday, April 18, 2013

Introduction: What Jesus did during his last hours of freedom? Can you remember? You and I might opt for some special time with our families or a little time to reminisce and laugh with friends. However, Jesus spent his last few hours of freedom talking to God. The place was *Gethsemane*. The occasion was *the night of his betrayal*, an evening that not only proves to us how human Jesus was but, also, how much Jesus believed in the power of prayer. Consider this.....

- When he found himself struggling with his personal feelings, he prayed, *My Father, if it be possible...!*
- When he had to do something he didn't want to do, he prayed, *My Father...let this cup pass away from me.*
- When he was disappointed by his closest friends, *Could you not watch with me one hour*, he continued to pray.
- When he faced the greatest challenge of his life, *the hour is at hand...the Son of man is betrayed*, he prayed.

Let's think about some of the times we can pray. When can we talk to God?

Discussion:

I. "I Can Talk To God...When Life Is Hard"

Ask Hannah (**I Samuel 1:10-11**) who was barren.

James 1:2-5 – When driven to ask God, "Why?" that's what we're told to do!

Philippians 4:6-7 - When the *outlook* is bad, try the *uplook*. Look to God!

II. "I Can Talk To God...When I Want Something"

Ask Jesus (**Matthew 26:36-46**) who felt alone and unable to complete the task.

James 4:1-3 – What about personal dreams, wishes, power, personalities, play, or passions?

I John 4:14-15 – If it's not best, it won't happen. Just trust God to work things out!

III. "I Can Talk To God...When I Don't Feel Well"

Ask Paul (**II Corinthians 12:7-12**) about his thorn in the flesh.

James 5:14-15 -- From the general to the specific; hurting to healing; God is with us!

Isaiah 53:3-4 – The Lord is "acquainted" with sorrow and grief. He understands.

IV. "I Can Talk To God...When I've Done Something Wrong"

Ask David (**Psalms 51**) who sinned, covered it up, and paid the price.

James 5:16 – Notice how the power of prayer AND the power of God are coupled together.

I John 1:9 – "We can still cry out to God for help even when we think we're getting what we deserve!

God comes to us even when our pain is self-inflicted" (Beth Moore, *A Heart Like His*, p.218).

Conclusion: Let's go back to the last few hours of Jesus' life. From Gethsemane to Golgotha this time. Three of the last sayings were prayers. Watch how he began each: *Father...My God, my God...Father*. Look at them again. *Father, you're my God. My God is a Father*. Isn't that something good for us to know and remember? What example do we have in Jesus? When did He pray? Consider Hannah, Paul, David, and so many other great men and women of the Bible who prayed. Take the time. Anytime. Anywhere. For as long as you and for whatever reason. PRAY! God is waiting..... and listening.