

Name:

Date:

Period:

The Theme of Persistent Prayer in the Gospel of Luke

Directions: Use your Bible and notes to fill in the blanks below.

1. One unique characteristic of the Gospel of Luke that has been noticed by scholars as a result of comparing the _____ gospels is the author's emphasis on the importance of prayer. For example, in many of the stories that Luke copied from _____, he adds references to Jesus praying, such as after his _____ in 3:21, just before he calls the _____ in 6:12, just before Peter's _____ in 9:18, and during Jesus' _____ in 9:28.
2. Luke, like _____, also has a version of the _____ Prayer in 11:1-4, but unique to Luke's version is the reference to the fact that _____ himself was praying, and that he was responding to a request from one of the _____ that he teach them how to pray just as _____ taught his _____.
3. Following Luke's version of the Prayer are more teachings on the subject in 11:5-13, dealing with the importance of being _____ in praying. Jesus tells the disciples, "_____ and you will receive; _____ and you will find; _____ and the _____ will be opened to you. For everyone who _____, receives; and the one who _____, finds; and to the one who _____, the _____ will be opened." The point of this saying is to assure the disciples that if they pray _____, whatever they _____ for in prayer they can be confident they will _____.
4. In 18:1-8, Jesus tells his disciples a "_____ about the _____ for them to pray _____ without becoming _____," that deals with a _____ who goes to a _____ in order to have him render a _____ decision for her. The _____ gives in to her request not because he is just but because of her _____. Jesus tells the disciples, "Will not God then _____ the _____ of his _____ ones who call out to him _____ and _____? Will he be _____ to _____ them? I tell you, he will see to it that _____ is done for them _____."
5. Most interesting is a passage in 22:31-32, in which Jesus says, "Simon, Simon, behold _____ has demanded to _____ all of you like _____, but I have prayed that your own _____ may not _____; and once you have turned back, you must _____ your _____." This seems to indicate that Jesus is aware not only that Peter will _____ him, but that later he will return to _____ the other disciples. Jesus seems confident that Peter will do this because he _____ for it.
6. Again, the theme in all of these passages seems to be that anyone who prays _____ can be confident that what they ask for they will _____. This may help to explain a disputed passage in the manuscript tradition for Luke, found in 22:43-44. This passage is found in parentheses in the middle of Luke's version of The _____ in the _____, which differs from Mark's:

Mark 14:32-42

Then they came to a place named Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter, James, and John, and began **to be troubled and distressed**. Then he said to them, "**My soul is sorrowful even to death**. Remain here and keep watch." **He advanced a little and fell to the ground and prayed that if it were possible the hour might pass by him**; he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. **Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will.**" When he returned he found them asleep. He said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak." Withdrawing again, he prayed, saying the same thing. Then he returned once more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes open and did not know what to answer him. He returned a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough. The hour has come. Behold, the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners. Get up, let us go. See, my betrayer is at hand."

Luke 22:39-46

Then going out he went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. When he arrived at the place he said to them, "Pray that you may not undergo the test." After withdrawing about a stone's throw from them and kneeling, he prayed, saying, "**Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done.**" (And to strengthen him an angel from heaven appeared to him. He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground.) When he rose from prayer and returned to his disciples, he found them sleeping from grief. He said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not undergo the test."

7. If the parenthetical passage in Luke is removed, it is interesting to consider how different the two accounts are. For example, Luke has no references to Jesus' emotional state: He is not "_____ and _____," and his soul is not "_____ even to _____." The nature of the prayer is also different. Mark explicitly claims Jesus prayed that "if it were _____ the _____ might pass by him," and in the prayer, after stating that "all things are _____" to God, Jesus implores him to "Take this _____ away from me, but not what I _____ but what you _____." Mark even describes Jesus as "_____ to the _____" before he prays, indicating his desperation and fear. In Luke, Jesus does not pray that the _____ might pass by him, he reverently _____ rather than _____ to the _____, and he prays not so much that the _____ be taken from him (although he does still ask for that) but that whatever happened would be the _____ of _____, a subtle but definite shift in emphasis.
8. The overall effect of these changes is to make Jesus seem much less _____ of what is about to happen to him because he knows that whatever happens will be the _____ of _____, since this

is what he has _____ for and he can be confident that his _____ will be _____, as he himself has taught his _____ throughout the gospel. Ironically, Luke also adds another warning from Jesus to his _____ before he prays in which he tells them to "_____ that they may not _____ the _____." He repeats this warning after he returns from prayer and finds the disciples _____, just as he does in Mark.

9. The problem with Luke's account is found in vs 43-44, a disputed passage not found in all manuscript copies of Luke, although present in most of them. In these verses, which immediately follow the prayer, Jesus seems so worried about his fate that an _____ appears to _____ him, and he prays so _____ that his _____ becomes like drops of _____ falling to the ground. Four key passages after the prayer that are unique to Luke are also at odds with the portrayal of Jesus in this disputed passage:
- First, in 23:27-31, as Jesus is on his way to die on the cross, he passes by a group of mourning women and tells them: "_____ of Jerusalem, do not _____ for me, _____ instead for _____ and for your _____."
 - Later, just after he is crucified, he famously says in 23:33-35: "Father, _____ them, they _____ not what they _____."
 - Shortly after this, in 23:39-43, one of the _____ crucified with Jesus asks him to "_____ me when you come into your _____." Jesus confidently responds that "_____ you will be with me in _____."
 - Finally, in 23:44-46, when Jesus dies on the cross his final words are "_____, into your _____ I commend my _____," a passage in stark contrast with Mark and Matthew, where Jesus cries out "My _____, my _____, why have you _____ me?" just before his death. All four of these passages are totally unique to Luke, and all portray a Jesus who is not at all _____ to face his _____, because he is confident that it is the _____ of _____, precisely what he had _____ for in the _____.
10. It is also worth noting that Luke's garden scene forms a chiasm when the disputed passage is removed:
- A When he arrived at the place he said to them, "_____ **that you may not** _____ **the** _____."
- B After _____ about a stone's throw from them
- C and _____, **he** _____,
- D saying, "**Father, if you are** _____,
- E **take this** _____ away from me;
- D' still, **not my** _____ **but yours be done.**"
- C' When he _____ **from** _____
- B' and _____ to his disciples, he found them sleeping from grief.
- A' He said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and _____ **that you may not** _____ **the** _____."
11. The disputed passage ruins this structure and takes the focus away from Jesus' repeated request that the _____ of _____ be done. Without the passage, Jesus' death seems to be an example of an ancient Christian _____, a story about the idealized death of a martyr, used to inspire Christians to stay faithful in the face of _____ and even _____.
12. This interpretation also makes sense in light of other passages unique to Luke where Jesus speaks explicitly about the fate his followers are likely to face. For example:
- In 12:4-5, Jesus says: "I tell you, my _____ do not be _____ of those who _____ the _____ but after that can do no more."
 - In 14:26-27, he says: "If anyone comes to me without _____ his _____ and _____, _____ and _____, _____ and _____, and even his own _____, he cannot be my _____. Whoever does not _____ his own _____ and _____ after me cannot be my _____."
 - Also in 21:16-19, Jesus says: "You will be handed over by _____, _____, _____, and _____, and they will put some of you to _____. You will be _____ by all because of my _____, but not a _____ on your _____ will be _____. By your _____ you will _____ your _____."
13. All of these passages portray Jesus as being aware that his _____ will face _____ and even _____ as a result of following him. He instructs them to face these things without _____, because they can be confident that their _____ in him will _____ them. It makes sense that Luke would portray _____ himself as having the same confidence when facing his own _____.
14. In summary, because of its absence in numerous _____ copies of Luke and because it is so at odds with the portrayal of _____ in the rest of the gospel, many scholars are convinced that the disputed passage in the garden is a later addition that fundamentally alters the author's original meaning.