

MARK 1:35-39

A PRAYER FOR YOUR LIFE

³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷ and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" ³⁸ Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." ³⁹ So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

In Philippians 2: 6-8, St. Paul wrote that Jesus, ⁶ *Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,* ⁷ *but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.* ⁸ *And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!*

The incarnate Son, Jesus Christ, was made in human likeness, which was manifested through dependent obedience to the Father. In doing so, he demonstrated to all human beings how God would have them live in the world. Our dependence upon God means that our entire day should be lived in intentional conversation with God. To do his will we must know his will, and to know his will we must listen to him. Even Jesus made it a priority to take time to pray – to speak and to listen to God. But that was not where it ended. Jesus had another priority before his schedule, before the demands of the world, even before the needs of the people around him. That priority was to do what he heard God telling him to do. He was sent to preach and demonstrate to the people that the Kingdom of God is near.

Look at your calendar and check out how much time you spend in listening to God in prayer. Now, think about the amount of time you listen to your boss, teacher, coach or parent in order to receive information about what you are to do. If you are like me, and you say that Jesus is Lord of your life, perhaps you need to spend more time with him if you want to live in obedience to his will.

Lord Jesus, help me to listen to you – help me to want to listen to you and take the time necessary to listen to you. As you prayed to the Father while you were on earth, empower me to likewise pray so that I may discern God's will for my day, my week and my life. Amen.