
Jesus was a man of authority. His words were commanding and his commands were irresistible. Jesus has authority to heal and forgive — something to be understood to be the prerogative of God alone. We also see Jesus' authority to sit down and eat with sinners — something which, the teachers of the law believed, was forbidden. In contrast to the Scribes, Jesus needed no authority other than His own person.¹

1. In verses 1:35-39, what about Jesus' reaction to his new popularity seems surprising? What do we learn here about Jesus' personal priorities?

2. In verses 1:40-45, what is surprising about how Jesus heals the leper? What do we learn from his method?

On Sunday we learned that prayer was a non-negotiable for Jesus. In the letters Paul wrote to the churches he started, he included a number of prayers for the church and its members. From these prayers we get great insight into what God's will and desire is for our lives. As you read each passage, jot down what stands out to you most about what Paul prays for in Ephesians 1:15-19 and Colossians 1:9-12.

¹ Tim Keller, Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 2005

Ephesians 1:15-19 – (New International Version) - 15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit [a] of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength

Colossians 1:9-12 – (New International Version) - 9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, [a] 10 so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, 12 and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

3. What stands out to you most from these prayers about what Paul considers most important about spiritual maturity and growth?

4. Which of the things Paul prayed for would you most like others to pray for you?

Prayer Requests:
