

HE PRAYED, THEN HE PREACHED

Jesus set many examples for those of us who are called to preach and share the Good News of His ministry of salvation and power.

As a young boy I was called to preach "The message of The Father". That's how I heard it from the Lord. To share the Word as my Heavenly Father would give it to me. To challenge people to follow Jesus and carry on His Ministry.

Down through these years I've found many examples in the life of Jesus as He walked this earth. One such example is how He emphasized the necessity for prayer. Many times we read in the Gospels how Jesus would go off away from people and be alone to pray. In Matthew 14:33, when Jesus had the disciples send the people away; "He went up on the mountain by HIMSELF to pray." In Mark 6:46 we read "And when HE had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray." And in Luke 5:16, "So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed."

There is a very powerful example of prayer and preaching in Mark 1:32-39. Here we find that once again Jesus had spent an evening ministering to the needs of many people. After some sleep He arose early in the morning and went alone to pray. Following a time in prayer He was found by His disciples who said, "Everyone is looking for you." But He responded by saying, "Let us go into the next town that I may preach there also because for this purpose I have come." Prayer preceded His purpose of preach-

ing.

He prayed and then He preached! What an example for all who share the Gospel. What a challenge. To place more emphasis on prayer before bringing that message from the Father. It is so easy to work on the message to be preached and not take the time to pray. To seek the right message and be in tune with the Spirit as He places the message in our hearts as well as our minds.



For those of you who preach the Gospel, please don't think I'm criticizing, but this really spoke to me and I thought it should be shared with others.

Prayer is a wonderful tool, but also can be taken for granted. If Jesus preceded His preaching with prayer then I want to follow His example, because my purpose is to preach the message of the Father.

Those of you who are not preachers and those called to preach the Gospel, remember you too can use this example. Pray, then share the Word. Pray, then witness of who this Jesus is in your life. Pray, then use your talents for Him. Pray, then!

