

Morning Prayer
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And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. Mark 1:25

The words above describe the actions of Jesus. Jesus got up very early, while it was still dark to pray. I'm an early riser, often finding myself up and out the door while it is still dark. I like to blame my former work on the farm for my early morning ways. However, truth be told it is probably my anxiety thinking about all the work I need to do that forces me out of bed at a ridiculous time of day. I have convinced myself that I have so much work to do and that this work is so important that I don't have time to sleep, exercise, eat a healthy breakfast, or even pray. I need to get my work done!

Let's go back to Jesus for a moment. He had much more work to do than I will ever have, and the work He was doing was far more important than anything I could ever be asked to do. But Jesus did not get up while it was still dark and go to work. Instead, Jesus got up while it was still dark to pray. If Jesus can find time to pray, maybe it's a good idea for me to find time to pray.

Please do not read this devotion and think that if you spend 10 minutes in prayer every morning that all of life's hardships will just melt away. That didn't happen for Jesus – why would it happen for us? The life of Jesus got harder and harder, and would eventually lead to death. It's a good idea to pray in the morning because my life is probably going to get harder and harder and just like Jesus it will lead to death.

Praying is a good reminder that even though life is hard and eventually leads to death, this hard life does not end in death! Just like Jesus, you and I will be raised from death. Prayer is simply the beginning of a conversation that we will be having for all eternity with our Lord.