

Mark 14:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the same words.

Analysis

And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the same words. Jesus' repeated prayer (τὸν αὐτὸν λόγον εἰπών, ton auton logon eipōn, "saying the same word") demonstrates persistent intercession, not vain repetition. This pattern—pray, return, find disciples sleeping, return to prayer—reveals both Christ's humanity (needing repeated prayer) and His submission (continuing to ask for the Father's will despite the answer).

The phrase **the same words** likely refers to verse 36's prayer: "Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt." Repeated prayer with unchanged petition yet deepening submission models how prayer changes the pray-er more than circumstances. Jesus wrestled toward acceptance, teaching us that submission isn't absence of struggle but victory through struggle.

Historical Context

Jewish prayer tradition valued repetition of set prayers (the Shema, the Amidah), but also emphasized heartfelt petition. Jesus' model here combines both—persistent repetition with genuine wrestling. The Gethsemane prayers occurred during Passover night, when faithful Jews would be discussing the Exodus; Jesus was about to become the true Passover Lamb.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' repeated prayer teach about persistence in prayer when God's answer doesn't change?
2. How does Jesus' model of repeated submission to God's will challenge the prosperity gospel's emphasis on claiming what you want?
3. In what situation are you currently called to pray the same prayer repeatedly while deepening your submission to God's will?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	πάλιν	ἀπελθὼν	προσηύξατο	τὸν	αὐτὸν	λόγον
And	again	he went away	and prayed		the same	words
G2532	G3825	G565	G4336	G3588	G846	G3056

εἰπών

and spake

G2036

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 6:7 (Prayer): But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

2 Corinthians 12:8 (Parallel theme): For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.