

“Lord Teach Us to Pray”

Luke 11:1-4

Open: Story

- We find Jesus shortly after calling His disciples to follow Him teaching them about prayer. **Matt. 6:5-13**
 - Prayer is to be a private relationship, not a public showing. **vs. 5-6**
 - Prayer is not to be turned into a programmed speech, but rather a humble petition. **vs. 7-8**
 - Jesus gives them a general outline to use in prayer (we will look at this later). **vs. 9-13**
- We find the disciples, later in their ministry with Christ, asking Jesus to teach them how to pray. **Lk. 11:1-4**

Thought: *The question presented, by the disciples, leads us to believe that John’s disciples were seeing greater results in their prayer life than those who were physically closest to Jesus. Why was that?*

- John’s disciples did not have the luxury of spending all day every day with Jesus. They recognized their relationship with the Heavenly Father was solely dependent on their prayer life.
- Many who claim to be closest to Jesus often rely on a public view of being close to God, rather than recognizing their need of a personal relationship with God through prayer.

- Jesus does not get mad at the disciples for revealing their lack of learning the previous lesson He taught on prayer; Jesus simply gives them an abbreviated version of the previous lesson followed by an example of prayer.
- Pray to God as a child seeking to get closer to his father. **vs. 2**
 - Respect – *“Hallowed be thy name...”*
 - Recognition of eternal things – *“Thy kingdom come...”*
 - Request to make God happy – *“Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.”*
 - **Notice the depth of the wording:** Jesus wants his disciple’s life to be lived as close to the letter of the law as was the word of God fulfilled through the life of Jesus.

Tran: 3 Key Observations

- Prayer can be taught; but it is not learned until it is personally performed.
 - The disciples sat through the best lesson on prayer by the best prayer warrior and never learned how to pray until they set off on their own to build their relationship with the Heavenly Father.
 - The disciples came to the realization that just knowing Jesus was not enough. They learned that their Christian life would be incomplete without a personal relationship with the Heavenly Father.
- Prayer is transferred from knowledge to action to the degree that the child of God recognizes his need of God.
 - Jesus’ disciples saw Jesus’ prayer life and wanted it. **Lk. 11:1a**
 - Jesus’ disciples saw John’s disciples’ prayer life and wanted it. **Lk. 11:1b**
 - Some of Jesus’ closest disciples did not see the need of prayer till after Jesus was gone. **Mark 14:32-42**
- What you gain in your prayer time is often more profitable than what you get from your prayer time.
 - Many Christians want the *“Wow Factor”* in their prayer life [manna falling from heaven, fire descending, miracles performed, five thousand fed...etc.], but do not want to get to know the Heavenly Father.
 - The greatest thing gained from a prayer life is not the things you get, but what you learn about your Heavenly Father.
 - Many in their prayer life never move from praying for things to praying because they desire to improve their relationship with God.

I. Understanding of prayer.

A. The **Person** of Prayer. Lk. 11:2

1. We need to understand that we are not praying to an imaginary ghost or a spirit, we are asking [as children] our Heavenly Father for something we need.
2. Yes, God is to be revered, feared, and held in the highest of respects; but we can also rest assured that He cares for our needs and wants to meet them.
 - Notice the care for our needs and the confidence we can have in prayer. Heb. 4:15-16
“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. [16] Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

B. The **Promise** of Prayer.

1. Jesus instructs His disciples in Lk. 11:3-4 what to pray for and reassures them in Lk. 11:9-10 that they can pray in faith with confidence that they will receive that for which they prayed.
2. Jesus compares answered prayer to the natural love that a father has for his children. Lk. 11:11-13

C. The **Persistence** of Prayer.

1. The persistence in prayer to get needs met (ours so we can meet others) Lk. 11:5-8
2. The persistence in prayer to move God to move in our circumstances. Lk. 18:1-8
 - a. Moses Joshua
 - b. Abraham David

D. The **Privacy** of Prayer.

1. Many never see great results from prayer because they only pray when they are recognized. Lk. 18:11-12
2. Many never see great results from their prayer life because they publicly take credit for what God gave them. Matt. 6:5-6

II. Jesus' outline for successful prayer.

A. Give us this day our daily bread. Matt. 6:11

- Prov. 30:8-9 *“Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: [9] Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.”*
1. This provides us with an opportunity to learn to be content with what God gives us.
 2. This allows God an opportunity to give us what He knows is best for our lives.
 3. This gives us an opportunity to learn that what God gives us is best.

B. Forgiveness from our debts and the wisdom to forgive our debtors. **Matt. 6:12**

- **I John 1:8 & 9** *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. [9] If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

1. We could never repay Jesus for the price He paid on Calvary; but I can live my life as a bondservant trying my best. **Rom. 12:1** *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”*
2. Jesus knew we would fall short in our debt payment, but He wants us to remember how He forgave us and extend this same forgiveness to people in our own lives. **Matt. 18:21-35**

C. Deliverance not just from evil but from the power of temptation. **Matt. 6:13**

- **James 1:14-15** *“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. [15] Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”*

1. There is only so long you can say no to sin. **Prov. 6:27-29** *“Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? [28] Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? [29] So he that goeth in to his neighbour’s wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.”*
2. Sin destroys relationships and hurts the ones we love. **Rom. 6:23** *“For the wages of sin is death...”*
3. We pray for victory in our life over temptation and sin. **I John 4:4** *“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”*

Close:

- Are you praying?
- Do you have a desire to know God?
- Have you transferred prayer from something you know about to something you are doing?

Heb. 4:16

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”