

DATE OF MESSAGE: July 24, 2016

MESSAGE TITLE: Lord, Teach Us to Pray

SCRIPTURE: Luke 11:1-13

KEY TRUTH

This passage will help us get to know more of who God is as we talk with Him. Our Heavenly Father loves to hear from us, and Jesus teaches some basic truths about prayer in Luke 11 that every believer needs to embrace.

GETTING STARTED: How did you learn to pray? Did you learn by hearing others pray out loud and following their lead or did someone personally teach you to pray? This passage records a story about a time when Jesus' disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray. Jesus response to their request reveals some timeless truths about prayer as well as God's heartfelt desire that we approach Him in prayer.

OBSERVATION

What motivated the disciples to ask about prayer? What had Jesus just finished doing when the disciples approached Him?

In Jesus' model prayer, what does He encourage his disciples to ask for first in verse 2? Why do you think Jesus put this request at the beginning of the model prayer?

What personal concern comes next?

How do prayer and forgiveness relate?

Jesus gave a parable in verses 5-8 on prayer. What was His main point?

Re-read verse 8. Look up the definition of the word, 'impudence'. How does this word color the meaning of Jesus' parable?

How does Jesus encourage His followers to pray in verses 9-12?

What in verse 13 does Jesus promise His Heavenly Father would give to those who seek Him?

APPLICATION

Jesus encouraged his followers to be shamelessly persistent in their praying based on God's mercy and love. Are your prayers characterized by shameless persistence? Why or why not?

When was the last time you truly sought God the way Jesus encourages us to seek Him? What led you to seek Him? How did God answer your prayers?

PRAYER

Dear God, please teach us to pray in keeping with Your Word and by the power of your indwelling Holy Spirit. Draw us closer to You. Give us a holy desire to know You in prayer. May our prayers be marked by shameless persistence as we earnestly seek Your presence and power.

SHARE POINT

Read Luke 11:1-13 and review the application questions. Share with someone in your life how God's Word is changing you into a growing disciple. Encourage that person to do the same. That person could be a family member, a friend, a co-worker or a neighbor.

COMMENTARY NOTES

This passage includes a story about Jesus teaching His disciples to pray, a parable about prayer and an encouragement to pray persistently. The disciples approached Jesus one day after they saw Him pray. They too wanted to know how to pray. Jesus answered their request by giving them what has become known as the Lord's prayer. This prayer could more accurately be referred to as the Disciples' Prayer since the verbiage of the prayer was uniquely designed to connect the disciples to God and to each other. Jesus began the prayer with a request that God's name would be hallowed or honored. God's name reflects his reputation as sovereign over all. Hallowed be your name is a request that God's name would be honored and treated with reverence. The phrase, "your kingdom come" has two applications: (1) It is a prayer that God would rule and reign in the hearts of his followers and (2) it also refers to the future consummation of the kingdom already realized in part by Jesus' first coming. The phrase 'daily bread'

includes all of the believer's physical needs which the Lord supplies not once but each day. In Jesus' parable (verses 5-8) it was unthinkable for a host to have nothing to set before his guest. In this story, the neighbor's entire family was asleep. Opening the door to the friend would probably wake up everyone in the house. This neighbor's unwillingness to help stands in stark contrast to God's great desire to help his children. The word 'impudence' in verse 8 refers to a total lack of sensitivity to what is proper or culturally expected. The friend is shamelessly and boldly awakening his neighbor because he knows who he is and counts on his neighbor's help. Jesus' point is that if even a human being will respond to his neighbor in that way, then believers should go boldly before God with any need they face. God is more gracious and caring than any neighbor! Jesus teaches believers here to be shamelessly persistent in their praying. In verses 9 and 10, Jesus follows up the parable by giving some general guidelines on prayer. Jesus tells his followers to ask, seek and knock at God's gates. This passage does not mean that believers will always receive what they ask for because God is wiser than they are and has better plans for his children than they could imagine. The fish and eggs Jesus mentioned in verses 11-13 were common food in Palestine. Serpents and scorpions were regular hazards. A far more important gift than material blessings is the powerful anointing and guidance of the Holy Spirit. And our Heavenly Father is more than willing to give us His indwelling Spirit.

SOURCES CONSULTED

ESV Study Bible

Serendipity Bible for Personal and Small Group Study