

Luke 11 pt. 3 vs. 01-13

Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, *that* one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

² So He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven.

³ Give us day by day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

⁵ And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; ⁶ for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; ⁷ and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'? ⁸ I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.

⁹ "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if *he asks* for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?¹³ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

1. Luke is taking us on a journey to show what a disciple looks like
 - a. One who chooses to love God and others

- b. One who chooses that good place of sitting at Jesus' feet
 - c. After choosing to love God and listen to the Master, we need to learn to pray
- 2. In Ch. 11, we began looking at the model prayer
- 3. If the disciples witnessed anything they wanted to learn from Jesus, it was prayer
 - a. As if to say, 'Lord, your prayer life is very different than mine'
 - b. 'You seem to always be heard'
- 4. **Many believers struggle with unanswered prayer**
- 5. It's a problem that discourages some to quit prayer all together
- 6. I hope that this study will help encourage and enlighten us on prayer
 - a. (vv. 2-4) **Pattern** for prayer
 - b. (vv. 5-8) **Persistence** in prayer
 - c. (vv. 9-13) **Promises** for prayer
- 7. We learned the pattern that we always begin with God Himself
- 8. Being a loving Father, God wants to teach us to pray
- 9. As long as we are new creations in Christ by the new birth, then God is our Father
 - a. We can approach Him with our needs

I. Persistence

1. To teach us about being persistent, we have the parable of the neighbor who knocks on his neighbor at midnight
2. Most travelers journeyed at night during this time because of the heat
3. They typically arrived unannounced
4. Eastern hospitality is something His listeners would understand
 - a. When a guest arrives, you must offer them something
 - b. Even if you have very little, you had to offer your very best
 - c. In this story, the man has an unannounced friend visit him at midnight and he doesn't have any food to offer
 - d. There is no quick "run to the store" option
 - i. Couldn't call domino's for delivery
 - e. He's in a sudden bind and needs help
 - f. His only option is to ask a neighbor for bread
 - g. Most homes at that time had only one room.
 - h. Waking the father would mean risking waking the family
 - i. On one side of the house was a raised platform where they all slept; down on the ground were all their animals

5. In this parable of contrast, the earthly neighbor doesn't want to be inconvenienced - **the complete opposite of God**
6. If a tired and selfish neighbor finally meets the needs of a bothersome friend, how much more will a loving heavenly Father meet the needs of His own dear children (**Wiersbe**)
7. Jesus is teaching by contrast –
8. **Luke 18:1** Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, ² saying: “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man.³ Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’⁴ And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man,⁵ yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’”
⁶ Then the Lord said, “Hear what the unjust judge said.⁷ And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?⁸ I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”
9. This persistence is an invitation by Jesus for us to be unashamedly bold in our approaching God
 - a. Like the man was not ashamed to wake up his friend at midnight
 - b. It conveys boldness and shamelessness

10. **Our persistence doesn't change God's mind**

- a. Persistence helps us identify what is truly important to us
 - i. It helps us sort through the not so important and what is truly important
- b. Being persistent changes us, developing in us a heart and passion for what God wants
 - i. If the posture of my heart is not to change, I won't last long in prayer
 - ii. But as disciples, we know that God is the Potter and is molding us

11. Because of unanswered prayer, many believers still approach God with the same sense of, "I don't know if God is going to hear me"

- a. **Not sure if God can help me**
 - i. I've been going through this for so long...
 - ii. Is God really able to do something?
- b. **Not sure if God wants to help me**
 - i. Why would He want to – I haven't earned it
- c. **Not clear on His willingness to answer me – He has so many people to look out for**
- d. We sometimes think that God is like this neighbor in bed
- e. **God is the complete opposite**

- f. People may not have what we need
 - i. God always has the resources

1. He's able to provide

- g. People may be inconvenienced
 - i. God is never inconvenienced

1. God is willing to provide

- h. People may give us excuses as to why they can't help
 - i. God will not turn us away

1. God is ready and waiting for us to ask

- 12. Another reason that many don't pray is because self-sufficiency
 - i. My need is not that great, I can handle this
- 13. Or we think that this is just how things will be – I'll learn to live with it
- 14. NO, if you have a great need in your life, bring it to God with unashamed boldness
- 15. If persistence finally paid off as a man beat on the door of a reluctant friend, how much more would persistence bring blessing as we pray to a loving heavenly Father! After all, we are the children in the house with Him! (Wiersbe)
- 16. Question is, what is your need?

II. Promises

1. **Vs. 9** So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you
2. Jesus is inviting us to ask God
 - a. The tense of this verb is keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on knocking
 - b. In other words, I'm not just approaching God during midnight problems, but in constant communion with the Father
3. Here we have a dilemma; many of us have been asking God for things and nothing seems to happen
4. **It may be one of 2 things**
 - a. **You don't truly believe that your request will be answered**
 - i. **Mark 11:24** "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.
 - b. **I'm asking with the wrong motives**
 - i. **James 4:3** You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.
5. No good thing will the Lord withhold from them that love Him (Psalm 84:11). Therefore, if that which I want or have prayed does not come my way, I must conclude it is not good for me—at least not at this

time—because my Father will do what’s best. He will not give me what He knows is a scorpion, even though I think it’s a fish. Nor will He give me a rock when what I need is a piece of bread. (**Courson**)

6. As long as we’re asking in faith and with the right motives, we are prompted to ask God with unashamed boldness
7. Ask, seek and knock are not all the same thing
 - a. We ask for things from God
 - b. We seek God Himself
 - c. We knock on behalf of another
8. **Ask** – for something from God: peace, provisions, forgiveness
 - a. Asking something from God can either be physical or spiritual
 - b. I.E. **Peace**
 - i. We have the right to ask the prince of peace for peace in our hearts & minds
 1. You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind...(Is 26:3)
 2. **Phil 4:6** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- ii. I cannot hold on to my anxiety, demanding to be in control all the time and expect the peace of God
 - iii. I need to relinquish control and allow God to be God
 - c. **I.E. Provision**
 - i. Daily provision for sustenance is something we're to ask for
 - 1. Give us this day our daily bread...
 - a. As the Lord feeds the birds of the air, He'll take care of you...
9. **Seek** – Seeking God Himself. Seek the Lord while He may be found
 - a. Seeking God is based on Love and need
 - b. Needing God and desiring God
 - c. My true need
 - d. His embrace is more important than His gifts
 - i. I don't just want something from God, I want God Himself
 - e. So we're encouraged to seek the Lord
 - f. **2 Chron 7:14** if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land
 - g. **Psalm 105:4** Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore!
 - h. **Psalm 27:8** *When You said, "Seek My face,"*
My heart said to You, "Your face, Lord, I will seek."

- i. **Jer 29:13** And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart
- j. Here is where I begin to mature a bit and no longer just want my father's gifts; I want my father
- k. This is one of the ways we know we're beginning to grow in the faith
- l. One of the joys of parenthood is when your child wants to hang out just to spend time

10. **Knocking** – This is done out of pure Love only, without need

- a. Knocking is a plea on behalf of another
- b. Vs. 5-8 parable is focused on knocking on behalf of a friend
- c. The neighbor is not knocking for himself, the entire focus is on someone else
- d. **Rev 3:20** Behold, I stand at the door and knock
 - i. Jesus is not doing this for His benefit, but for the benefit of another (us)
- e. **This is intercession**
- f. Intercession is one of the most powerful prayers
- g. Imagine your little one approaching you to ask for something for his brother or sister

- h. Lord bring us to the place of praying for others.
- i. The Lord brings it back to asking – “If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone?”
- j. Jesus opens the invitation for us to ask Him for our needs
- k. If you then being evil, how much more will your heavenly father give the Holy Spirit to those that ask Him?
- l. Our greatest need is not what we’ll eat or what we’ll wear, God will take care of these things
- m. Our greatest need is to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Is 11:2)
 - i. The Spirit of the Lord
 - ii. The Spirit of wisdom
 - iii. and understanding,
 - iv. The Spirit of counsel
 - v. and might,
 - vi. The Spirit of knowledge
 - vii. and of the fear of the LORD
- n. You know you are filled with the Holy Spirit when your character resembles Jesus’ character
- o. Gal 5:23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control

- p. The amazing thing is that God is willing to give us this gift if we'll simply believe and receive