

Prayer

3-10-19

Luke 11:1 (ESV)

Now **Jesus was praying** in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”

The disciples observed Jesus’ life, teaching, and miracles recognizing HE was the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God. They also often observed HIM praying. Therefore they asked HIM to teach them how to pray. Matt.6:9-13 gives the more formal prayer that many of us have memorized. However, Luke records the more basic prayer stating only the characteristic of Jesus’ teaching. This is a lesson to us about how to approach God.

When praying we should first acknowledge whom we are approaching!

Luke 11:2 (ESV)

When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed be your name.”

We acknowledge God as Father, which is an intimate but respectful term. Through Jesus we have been reconciled to God and we are HIS children. Plus we need to recognize God’s majesty and acknowledge that HIS NAME is Holy.

After we acknowledging God as Father and Holy, we as HIS children make a request:

Luke 11:2b (ESV)

Your kingdom come.

The term Kingdom is important. There is a future Kingdom to be established when Jesus returns, but this Kingdom mentioned here is God's working presence among us. **This is having the reign of God in our own lives now. Matthew has a more complete statement:**

Matthew 6:10 (ESV)

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

Kingdom is God working "in us" in the present time:

Colossians 1:13 (ESV)

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to **"the kingdom"** of his beloved Son,

Kingdom is also God working "through us" now:

Luke 11:20 (ESV)

But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then "the kingdom" of God has come upon you.

Therefore "HIS Kingdom Come" means we are praying that God will reveal HIMSELF "in us" and "through us" in this world today.

After acknowledging God as supreme in all things, we pray for our daily needs.

Luke 11:3 (ESV)

Give us each day our daily bread,

Kingdom living is presenting our daily needs before God and not being stressed out about the future.

Matthew 6:34 (ESV)

Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

To pray effectively, we need to keep our hearts clear from obstructions between us and God.

Luke 11:4 (ESV)

Forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

We have already called God “Father” being reconciled to God, therefore, this is just a prerequisite for daily fellowship and continued walk with the Father.

1 John 1:9 (ESV)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Now with a clear heart before God, we ask God guide us in this life.

Luke 11:4 (ESV)

And lead us not into temptation.

“God lead us away from temptation.”

James 1:13 clearly states that God doesn’t tempt us. Therefore, in contemporary language, we simply pray, “God lead us away from temptation.”

After teaching us how to pray, Jesus now tells us to pray with impudence or importunity **which by definition means** pray showing no respect for the difficulty at hand, have a holy arrogance, pray shamelessly with an urgent persistence, even if it seems annoyingly so.

Now Jesus shows us what this looks like:

Luke 11:5–10 (ESV)

⁵ And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; ⁷ and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? ⁸ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his **“impudence”** he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹ **And I tell 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 the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.**

Jesus continues demonstrating the confidence we should have in prayer:

Luke 11:11–12 (ESV)

¹¹ **What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹² or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?**

The Jesus goes on to say that we should ask for the best of all gifts; The Holy Spirit! In verse 2 Jesus said pray “Your kingdom come!” The Kingdom is God working in this world. The kingdom is the Spirit working in the Christian life. Therefore, Jesus is instructing us to pray for the filling of the Holy Spirit, which will transform us and enable us to live out the kingdom, the power of God here on earth.

Luke 11:13 (ESV)

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **“how much more”** will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

Therefore shamelessly pray to God!

Luke 11:10 (ESV)

For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

But this is only for the children of God. Therefore to be a child of God we must receive Jesus Christ!

2Cor.5:21 (NIV)

God made Jesus who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Jesus we might become the righteousness of God.

Prophetic Team

Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.