

“Lord, Teach US to Pray”

Luke 11:1

In this morning's lesson...

- We'll see what Jesus taught about prayer in His example of prayer (11:2–4, with similar teaching in Matthew 6:9–15).
- If Jesus gives us an example of prayer, and it's recorded in just 3 verses, we can assume that what IS recorded is extremely important.

In tonight's lesson...

- We'll see what Jesus taught about prayer in the Parable of the Friend at Midnight (11:5–8), and the application Jesus makes of it (11:9–13, with similar teaching in Matthew 7:7–11).
- And also in a similar parable, the Parable of the Persistent Widow (18:1–8).

The “Model” Prayer (1 1:2–4)

- Matthew 6:9–15 essentially the same, with a few additions:
 - At end of prayer (v. 13): “For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”
 - Urgency in forgiving others (vv. 14–15): “For you if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses...”

What does Jesus teach us about prayer?

- That certain things should always be our utmost concern, even when making requests of our Father.
- That His name be “hallowed,” that it be the name above all names, that He be honored and revered as holy.
- “Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour. **Father, glorify your name**” (John 12:27–28).
- “Help us, O God of our salvation, **for the glory of Your name**; and deliver us, and provide atonement for our sins, **for Your name’s sake!**” (Psalms 79:9).

What does Jesus teach us about prayer?

- That certain things should always be our utmost concern, even when making requests of our Father.
 - That His “will be done **on earth as it is in heaven**” (11:2).
 - “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that” (James 4:15).
 - Just like Paul (Acts 18:21; Romans 1:10; 15:32; etc.).
 - Prayer is not about getting **OUR** will done in heaven, but getting **God’s** will done on earth.

What does Jesus teach us about prayer?

- That we should “seek first the **kingdom** of God and His righteousness” (Matthew 6:33).
 - We don’t pray “your kingdom come,” because it has already come, and we are part of it (Col. 1:13–14).
 - “Like treasure hidden in a field” (Matthew 13:44); “like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls” (Matthew 13:45).
 - “Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a **kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him**” (Daniel 7:14). *1 Timothy 2:4*

What does Jesus teach us about prayer?

- That deliverance from temptation should be our constant prayer.
 - “Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, to practice wicked works with men who work iniquity” (Psa. 141:4).
 - **“Keep watching and praying** that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 26:41).
 - What does God provide? (1 Corinthians 10:13).
 - How helpful is our High Priest? (Hebrews 2:16–18).

What does Jesus teach us about prayer?

- That we should also constantly pray for forgiveness.
 - “If we say that we have no sin...If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:8–9).
 - **“For your name’s sake, O LORD, pardon my iniquity, for it is great”** (Psalms 25:11). *1 John 2:12*
 - **“My son, I beg you, give glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me”** (Joshua 7:19).

What does Jesus teach us about prayer?

- That we should always be willing to do for others what God has done for us.
 - “And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves ALSO forgive everyone who is indebted to us” (Luke 11:4).
 - “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you” (Eph. 4:32).
 - “If you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matthew 6:15).

What does Jesus teach us about prayer?

- That we depend on God every day for the things necessary to sustain life.
 - “Give us day by day by our daily bread” (Luke 11:4);
“give us **this day** our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11).
 - “He gives to all life, breath, and all things...in Him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:25, 28).
 - “If He should gather to Himself His Spirit and His breath, all flesh would perish together” (Job 34:14–15).

Review

- This morning: Jesus' "model" prayer.
- Two things which should be of the utmost concern: that God's name be hallowed, and that His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
- The kingdom of God should also be a primary focus.
- Other things for which we should constantly pray: deliverance from temptation, forgiveness of sins (as we forgive others), our daily bread.

Friend at Midnight (11:5–8)

- The word translated “persistence” in v. 8 carries with it the idea of shamelessness.
- CEV: “He will get up and give you as much as you need, simply because you are not ashamed to keep on asking.”

Application of Parable (11:9–13)

- Matthew 7:7–11 essentially the same, except for this...
 - “If you, then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give **good things** to those who ask Him!” (11).
 - Think about all the good things we have because the Holy Spirit was given! And for what purpose?
 - This is basically about asking for the **true bread**.

Persistent Widow (1 8:1–8)

- “She came to him” (v. 3). NAS and ESV say “she kept coming” (see also v. 5).
- “Now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and **will He delay long over them?**” (v. 8).

What does Jesus teach us about prayer?

- That we should be persistent in prayer, that we “always ought to pray and not lose heart” (Lk. 18:1).
- No need to lose heart “for everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened” (Luke 11:10).
- No need to lose heart, because if WE know how to give good gifts to our children, how much **more** will our heavenly Father (Luke 11:13).
- A better understanding of “good”; greater resources.

What does Jesus teach us about prayer?

- That we should sometimes be persistent even with the same request.
 - Syrophoenician woman (Matt.15:22–28; Mark 7:24–30).
 - She “kept asking” Jesus to cast a demon out of her daughter, and she persisted through His silence, the impatience of His disciples, the statement about to whom He was sent, and the illustration about dogs.
 - “O woman, great is your **faith!** Let it be to you as you desire” (Matthew 15:28).

What does Jesus teach us about prayer?

- That we should sometimes be persistent even with the **same request**.
 - Not about nagging God until He gives us what we want.
 - When we genuinely need something and continue to trust that He is the way to receive it, He is more likely to give it to us.
 - If we ask God for something once, and then forget about it...

What does Jesus teach us about prayer?

- Why doesn't He just give it to us the first time?
Besides being a test of our faith.
 - We may not yet see the value of it.
 - We may not be ready to receive it.
 - Perhaps we need to focus more on "our part."
 - "Will He **delay** long over them?" (Luke 18:7).
 - "**How long**, O Lord, until you judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (Rev. 6:10).