

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY

Luke 11:1-13 [focus—vv1-4]

I. INTRODUCTION

II. WHY DO A SERIES ON HOW TO PRAY?

A. TO SERVE GOD MORE EFFECTIVELY

1. FIVE GOALS

- Outreach/evangelize
- Disciple young persons
- City-wide ministry
- Training lab for ministry
- Global church

2. EFFECTIVENESS

- **Ph 4:13**—*I can accomplish all things through Him who strengthens me.*
- **Jas 5:16**—*The effectively powerful praying of a righteous person can accomplish much*

B. FOR OUR OWN GOOD

1. To learn more about God—and His will—to know Him better
2. To meet our own needs—relying on Him to provide for them
3. To meet others' needs—helping and reconciling with them

C. TO BECOME MORE CHRIST-LIKE

1. Christ-followers—obey whatever He says to do
 - **Lk 18:1**—Jesus said—we ought *always* **to pray**—and never to lose heart
2. Christ-followers—want to be like their Master
3. Christ-followers—follow His example

III. CHRIST'S EXAMPLE—THE MODEL PRAYER

A. LIFESTYLE PRAYER

1. Regularly—He often slipped away to the wilderness—**Lk 5:16**
2. In Gospels—24 specific incidents of Jesus praying
3. In most contexts
 - Privately
 - Small group with disciples
 - Publicly—thanks/blessing and healing/miracles
 - Oddly—*no* record of praying in Temple or synagogue
4. From first to last

- At baptism
- On cross—committed His spirit to God

5. Defined His identity: “My house shall be a house of prayer for all nations” [Mk 11 = Is 56]

B. PURPOSES—WHY

- **Communion**—with Father
- **Acknowledgement?—praise?—commitment?**—at baptism
- **Empowerment**—before healing and performing miracles
- **Direction**—before launching Galilean ministry
- **Guidance—wisdom**—before choosing Apostles
- **Thanks/blessing for provision**—feeding 5000—and 4000
- **Renewal—after feeding 5000**—before walking on water
- **Disciples’ understanding**—before confession by Peter
- **Blessing children**—after rebuking disciples
- **Validation of mission before men**—before raising Lazarus
- **Glorify God**—asked Father to glorify His name [before Greeks]
- **Establishing New Covenant**—Lord’s Supper
- **Personal intercession**—for Peter’s faith when Satan asked to ‘sift’ him
- **Intercession for us**—High priestly prayer
- **Agonizing—seeking God’s will and strength**—Gethsemane
- **Forgiveness**—Father, forgive them
- **Urgent plea for help**—My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me
- **Total trust**—Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit
- **Thanks/blessing and revelation**—disciples in Emmaus
- **Final blessing**—of disciples before ascension

IV. CONTEXT OF LUKE 11

A. IN LINE WITH MT 1-18 AND MK 1-9—EVENTS ALREADY OCCURRED

- Sending 12
- Feeding 5000
- Peter’s confession
- First prediction of death
- Feeding 4000
- Transfiguration
- Disciples’ failure to exorcise epileptic boy
- Second prediction of death
- Jesus has turned toward Jerusalem

B. LUKE’S UNIQUE ACCOUNTS

1. Sending and return of 70
 - o Prayer of thanks—for revelation to ‘infants’
 - o Blessing of disciples—for witnessing kingdom inauguration
2. Three teachings
 - a. Fulfilling the Second Great Commandment: Parable of Good Samaritan
 - b. Serving God where He puts you: Martha and Mary

c. A Primer on Prayer

V. TEXT

1 *It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples.”* **2** *And He said to them, “When you pray, say: ‘Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come.* **3** *‘Give us each day our daily bread. **4** ‘And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.’”*

5 *Then He said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; **6** for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; **7** and from inside he answers and says, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ **8** I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much 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** Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? **12** Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? **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?”*

VI. OUTLINE—THE MASTER TEACHER AT WORK

A. REQUEST—**v1**—evoking Jesus’ immediate response

B. FOUR STEP TEACHING PROCESS

1. PRINCIPLES—**vv2-4**

- Didactic—step by step—clear
- By example—learn by doing—watch me

2. PARABLE—**vv5-8**

- Story-telling dealt with practical problem
- When there is no answer—persist until you receive one!

3. EXHORTATION—CALL TO ACTION—WITH PROMISES—**vv9-10**

- Ask—and you will receive what you pray for
- Seek—and you will know His will and receive guidance
- Knock—and opportunities to serve Him will open

4. ILLUSTRATION—**vv11-13**

- Assurance—the Father will provide even better than you can imagine

VII. BACKGROUND—THE REQUEST—**v 1**

A. ANOTHER VERSION

1. Similar to Sermon on Mount
 - a. Abbreviated ‘Lord’s Prayer’
 - b. Conflates with teaching on ask-seek-knock
 - c. Debate—is this just Luke’s account of ‘Lord’s Prayer’ in Matthew
2. But probably a *separate* event
 - a. Luke already gave most of Sermon in chapter 6—Sermon on the Plain
 - b. Different setting
 - c. First occasion public—this one private

B. UNIQUE PLACEMENT OF TEACHING

1. The only request in the Gospels—for Jesus to teach
2. The Midway Prayer
 - a. Total—24 specific instances of Jesus praying in Gospels
 - b. This one = 12th time Jesus prayed [recorded or implied]
 - c. No more explicit incidents of Jesus praying—until *after* His **Second** Teaching on Prayer
 1. Jesus’ Second Teaching on Prayer = **Lk 18:1-14**
 2. Two themes in Second Teaching
 - o Be **persistent**—desperate widow seeking legal protection—**Lk 18:1-8**
 - o Be **humble**—arrogant Pharisee and humble tax-collector—**Lk 18:9-14**
 - d. After Second Teaching—Jesus prayed 12 more times

C. THE NEED FOR TEACHING

1. DEFICIENT WAYS THEY HAD BEEN TAUGHT
 - a. By Scribes—“*merely rules taught by men*”—**Mk 7**
 - b. Observing empty—ostentatious—ritual worship
 - o Public show—hypocrites in Temple and on street-corners—**Mt 6**
 - o Synagogues—lengthy prayers of scribes—**Mk 10**
 - o Temple—Pharisee and publican—**Lk 18**
 - c. Liturgical—good but not personal
 - o Jews memorized and recited prayers or confessions

- o *Shema* of Deut. 6:4–5
- o “Eighteen Benedictions”—national set-prayers in Jewish liturgy.

2. DAWNING LIGHT OF DISCIPLESHIP

- a. Jesus had been teaching them separately
 - o Taught everyone else in parables—but explained everything to disciples privately—**Mk 4**
 - o Did not want anyone to know where they were—because He was teaching them—**Mk 9**
- b. Stunning effect of the Transfiguration—“**Listen to Him!**”—**Lk 9:35**
- c. Growing awareness that God had chosen them
 - o Jesus’ blessing—“**Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see**”—**Lk 10:23**

3. URGENT REQUEST FOR FINAL SOLUTION

- δίδαξον = aorist imperative = “teach us **now** to pray”
- Or—“teach us **once for all** to pray”

D. WHY DID DISCIPLES WANT TO LEARN TO PRAY

1. THEY WERE JESUS’ DISCIPLES—AND WANTED TO BE LIKE HIM

- a. Discipleship communities had unique ways of praying
- b. A common prayer built community—gave disciples identity
 - o Qumran community had lengthy common prayers
 - o Pharisees had unique form of fasting and praying
 - o Jesus’ disciples had shown interest in John’s methods—fasting and praying—**Lk 5:33**

2. DESIRED PROPHETIC POWER—WHEN JESUS PRAYED, MIGHTY THINGS HAPPENED

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|------|
| • At baptism | Heaven tore open! | Lk 3 |
| • Capernaum morning hours | Launched Galilee ministry | Mk 1 |
| • All night on mountain | Chose and sent 12 | Lk 6 |
| • Blessed 5 loaves and 2 fish | Fed 5000 | Lk 9 |
| • Prayed all night | Walked on water | Mk 6 |
| • Sighed and looked to heaven | Healed deaf-mute in Decapolis | Mk 7 |
| • Blessed 7 loaves and few fish | Fed 4000 | Mk 8 |
| • Prayed alone (Caesarea) | Peter confessed Him as Christ | Lk 9 |
| • At Transfiguration | God spoke to them! | Lk 9 |

3. THEY NEEDED PRAYER TO DO THE MISSION JESUS GAVE THEM

- a. Sent 12 with mission: to preach—heal—exorcise—**Mk 3:14** and **6:12**

- Moderate success—even getting Herod’s attention
- b. Failure to exorcize boy after Transfiguration
 - “This kind comes out only by prayer”—**Mk 9:29**
- c. Sending of 70
 - Stunning realization—“Lord, the demons are subject to us in Your name!”—**Lk 10:17**
 - Perhaps their prayers were effective—and they wanted to be even more effective?

VIII. EXPLANATION—THE TEACHING—vv 2-13

A. PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER—vv 2-4

1. OUTLINE—THREE PARTS

- Addressing God
- Acknowledging God
- Asking God

2. CONTENT

a. Addressing God

- **Personal**—call upon Him as ‘Father’—not ‘God’
- **Relational**: not just speaking ‘to God’ —but conversing ‘with the Father’
- **Special access**—same as Christ the Son—as joint heirs
- **Intimate**: here not corporate—*not* ‘our Father’—but one-on-one

b. Acknowledging God--Two ‘Thou Declarations’

1. The Declarations

- 1st declaration—praise His person = Your name is holy!
- 2nd declaration—praise His purpose = You are bringing your kingdom!

2. Relates to two priorities in **Mt 6:33**—as prerequisites for any petition

- Prerequisites—**Seek first [2] His kingdom and [1] His righteousness**
- Petitions—**And all these things will be given to you**

c. Asking God—Three ‘We Petitions’

1. PROVISION—“daily bread”

- **Imperative** request—made boldly **without condition**
- He *will* provide all we need—in line with seeking His kingdom/righteousness

2. FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

- **Imperative** request—made **conditionally**—*if* we are willing to reciprocate
- He will forgive—just as we are willing to reconcile with others/forgive them
- Same condition attached after ‘Lord’s Prayer’ in Sermon on Mount—**Mt 6**

3. PROTECTION

- **Subjunctive** request—“**Oh that you might not allow us to be led into temptation**”
- Asking God to do His part—to protect us—but we must also *avoid* temptation
- Fits with Jesus’ exhortation—to disciples in Gethsemane

Mk 14:38—*Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation; for the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.*

B. PARABLE—vv 5-8

1. Raises problem—disciples worried about—what if God does not answer!
2. Gives answer—persist until God answers!
3. Same answer as Second Teaching on Prayer
 - **Lk 18:1-8**—the desperate widow persisted with the godless judge
4. Provides contrasting background for later assurance—God desires to provide—**vv 12-13**

C. EXHORTATION—CALL TO ACTION—AND PROMISES—vv 9-10

1. **Ask**—for provision in line with His kingdom and righteousness
 - God will provide your *every* need—for which you ask
2. **Seek**—His kingdom purposes and guidance
 - God will show you His will—purpose—and direction for you
3. **Knock**—for doors of opportunity to open
 - God will provide ways for you to fulfill your purpose and serve Him

D. ILLUSTRATION—vv 11-13

1. Sometimes God delays His answer—but be assured—He will always answer
2. He knows you better than your earthly parents—even better than you do yourself
3. He will provide what *perfectly* suits you—to become who/what He created you to be

IX. WHY LEARN TO PRAY—WHY IT MATTERS

- To **commune** with the Father

- To **praise**—and acknowledge His supremacy, holiness, and righteousness
- To **praise**—and acknowledge His Kingdom purpose—and know His will
- To **ask**—for what we need—in line with His kingdom and righteousness
- To **ask**—forgiveness—for breaking fellowship with Him and others
- To **pledge**— reconciliation—mending relationships with those who offend us
- To **ask**—protection—and be on guard against temptation
- **Persist** in prayer—don't be discouraged—never give up!
- **Act**—based on His promises: ask—seek—knock
- Be **assured**—the Father loves us more than we imagine—and wants the very best for us

IX. INVITATION

OUR FATHER GOD, WHO ART IN HEAVEN

Our Father God, who art in heaven, all hallowed by Thy name;
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in heaven and earth the same.

Give us this day our daily bread; and as we those forgive
Who sin against us, so may we forgiving grace receive.

Into temptation lead us not; from evil set us free;
And Thine the kingdom, Thine the power, and glory ever be.