

# **“Lord Teach Us to Pray”**

## **Luke 11:1-13**

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### **I. Introduction**

- A. I think if we are honest, many of us as Christians struggle when it comes to our prayer lives (v. 1)
  - 1. *“No Christian rises higher than his or her praying. Everything we are and everything we do for the Lord depends on prayer.”* – Warren Wiersbe
  - 2. Perhaps it is why in verse one, one of the disciples asked Jesus, “Lord teach us to pray.”
- B. Have you ever asked Jesus to teach you to pray?
  - 1. That should be our heart’s cry
  - 2. We have spent five weeks with Christ in the School of Prayer
    - a) But we are not yet ready to graduate
    - b) Jesus is not finished teaching on prayer
    - c) The text covers vv. 2-13
  - 3. Looking over the whole text, Jesus teaches us three important truths on prayer

### **II. The Pattern of Prayer (Luke 11:2-4)**

- A. The prayer has six petitions, and the first here focuses on God
  - 1. His name (v. 2)
    - a) God’s name hallowed
    - b) We must pray to our Father
    - c) For His glory
  - 2. His kingdom (v. 2)
  - 3. His will (v. 2)
    - a) The purpose of prayer
    - b) God’s will be done
- B. Next, the prayer turns to our needs
  - 1. “Give us” (v. 3)
    - a) God’s provision
  - 2. “Forgive us” (v. 4)
    - a) God’s pardon
      - 1) (1 John 1:9)
  - 3. “Deliver us” (v. 4)
    - a) God’s protection
  - 4. Remember, the priority and pattern of prayer is all for God’s glory
  - 5. Sometimes we get weary and want to give up

### **III. The Persistence of Prayer (Luke 11:5-8)**

- A. Jesus gives us a parable known as “the friend at midnight”
  - 1. Its purpose was to encourage us to pray with “shameless persistence”
- B. Study the parable (vv. 5-8)
- C. Lessons

1. It's not a parable of comparison, it's a parable of contrast
  - a) God is not an "annoyed sleepy friend"
  - b) He is our loving Father in Heaven who never sleeps or slumbers
    - 1) Illustration- Elijah on Mount Carmel
2. God our Father knows our needs before we even ask
3. He is not irritated by our petitions
4. He loves to help us in our time of need
  - a) He's a grace-giver
5. We should pray with shameless persistence
  - a) Because of His importunity (v. 8)
  - b) It's a shameless persistence
  - c) We should pray
    - 1) Persistently
    - 2) Earnestly
    - 3) Boldly
    - 4) Relentlessly
    - 5) Fervently
      - a. "The effectual..." (James 5:16)
    - 6) Humbly
      - a. Two men (a Pharisee and a tax collector)
      - b. Illustration- The Syrophenician woman (Matthew 15)
      - c. Hannah prayed for a son (1 Samuel 1)
      - d. Jacob wrestled with God (Genesis 32)
      - e. Jesus in Gethsemane
  - d) Jesus is saying if a grouchy friend can be forced by his friend's shameless insistence to give what he ought, how much more will our loving God respond to our shameless, persistent, earnest prayer? (v. 8)

#### **IV. The Promise of Prayer (Luke 11:9-13)**

- A. Jesus is now applying His parable by giving us a promise (vv. 9-10)
  1. "Ask," "seek," "knock"
    - a) Greek- present tense imperatives
    - b) Keep on!
  2. They also indicate an increasing intensity
    - a) "Ask" implies requesting assistance for a conscious need
    - b) "Seek" denotes asking, but adds action
    - c) "Knock" includes asking, acting, plus persevering
  3. "Ask" (v. 9) is a petition of an inferior to a superior
    - a) We must ask with humility
    - b) Jesus is not promising us we can have whatever we want
    - c) It must be:
      1. God's will
      2. For God's glory
      3. For our spiritual good
  4. God does answer prayer (v. 10)
    - a) "Receiveth," "findeth," "it shall be opened"
    - b) The four ways God answers prayers:
      1. Direct answer

2. Delayed answer
3. Different answer
  - a. Paul's thorn (2 Corinthians 12)
4. Denial (God says "no")
5. We must ask according to God our Father's good will (vv. 11-13)
  - a) The greatest blessings that you can pray for are the blessings of the Holy Spirit (v. 13)
  - b) The Holy Spirit's blessings

## **V. Conclusion**

- A. Poem- "Thou art coming to a king; Large petitions with thee bring; For His grace and power are such that none can ever ask too much."