

Connecting Through the Word
“Lord, Teach Us To Pray”
Praying With Jesus
Luke 11 & 18

Luke 11:1-13

¹ 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.”

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 forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.”

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.

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?

¹³ 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!”

The fact that Jesus had to pray while He was ministering here on earth is proof enough that we need to pray.

Jesus prayed at His baptism

Luke 3:21-22

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

Jesus prayed before He chose the Twelve

Luke 6:12

In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God.

Jesus prayed at the Transfiguration

Luke 9:28-29

Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white.

Jesus prayed before He was arrested

Luke 22:41-45

And he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow,

Jesus prayed on the cross

Luke 23:46

Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

Jesus prayed at other times

Luke 5:16

But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.

Luke 9:18

Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?"

The Twelve soon learned the importance of prayer.

Jesus prayed in so many different ways and with so many bodily positions.

He knelt, He stood, He lifted His hands, and He laid prostrate on the ground.

Jesus expressed His prayers in so many different ways. He prayed silently, He prayed aloud, He prayed alone by Himself, and He prayed with other people.

Jesus prayed for individuals, He prayed for groups, He prayed for those He had never seen, and He prayed for Himself.

Jesus prayed spontaneously when the need arose, and He prayed when His heart overflowed with praise as His Father did a miracle for Him.

Jesus gave a pattern of prayer for His disciples to pray.

But most of all, Jesus left an example of prayer.

Jesus didn't invent prayer nor did He introduce new techniques of prayer. No! Jesus just prayed!

Throughout the Old Testament people prayed. When Jesus became flesh and identified with us, He prayed.

Genesis 4:26

To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD.

After God created humans, they needed to reach out to their Creator. They did it with prayer.

What is the nature of prayer?

The word nature means the power of energy that makes the act of prayer what it is. When you say energy, you are looking for its source of power.

When you examine energy and power, you are examining life itself. To pray is to live!

The Nature of Prayer

- Prayer is Relationship
- Prayer is Conversion
- Prayer is Entrance into God's Presence
- Prayer Focuses on God
- Prayer Demands Your Total Personal Response
- Prayer is Life-Changing
- Prayer is a Necessary Mandate

When you study the Gospel of Luke you will find that Jesus prayed in different ways, at all different times, in all different places, for all different topics.

Jesus never forgot to pray!

Jesus began His ministry with prayer at His baptism.

Luke 3:21

“...and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying,”

And what is Jesus still doing today? He is praying!

Hebrews 7:25

Therefore, He is always able to save those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to intercede for them.

In Luke 11 the disciples ask the Lord to teach them to pray.

Jesus gave them the Pattern for Prayer.

We called it the **Lord’s Prayer**.

Jesus taught them the Persistence of Prayer

The friend who ask for bread at midnight for his friend.

Jesus encouraged them with Promise Rewards of Prayer

Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you...For everyone who asks receives and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it shall be opened.”

Jesus revealed to the disciples the secret to the Power of Prayer.

¹³ 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!”

Later just before His ascension Jesus told the disciples:

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

In Luke 18 the Lord gave His disciples some practical applications of prayer!

He used two parables to teach this lesson.

The parable of the widow, the adversary and the unjust judge.

The parable of the two men at the temple praying.

A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning or defined as “a narrative true to nature of to life, used for the purpose of conveying spiritual truth to the mind of the hearer. It is an outward symbol of an inward reality.

Or better stated – “a parable is the narrative – fictitious or otherwise – of a scene in human life or a process in nature; yet true in its representations either of the one or of the other, and having under it a spiritual lesson.”

In the passage before us, we must first look at the context. The chapter before is very helpful in understanding these meaning of these two parables.

In the end of chapter 17 Jesus is speaking of the conditions that will prevail at the end of this age.

The days of Noah – vs. 26

The days of Lot – vs. 28

The conditions will be such there will only be a few that really believe.... And are faithful.

Most will be busy with the mundane affairs of life....

Marrying, giving in marriage, eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, building....

Not much thought given to coming judgment....

Then Chapter 18....

The beginning of chapter 17... disciples prayed... “Increase our faith....”

Its as if Jesus almost says.... Its not the amount that matters... but that you daily live by faith knowing who the Master is and that you remember that you are serving Him.

In chapter 18:8 after Jesus gives the first parable... He asked the question...

“When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”

Verse 1 – “men ought to pray and not to faint... or lose heart and quit...”

What will keep you from quitting...

What will keep you faithful in

- Bible Reading,
- Witnessing
- Church attendance,
- Christian Service.
- Deacon, teacher, serving.....

Keep in the attitude and spirit of prayer...

Several things we learn about prayer in this passage:

Interesting to note that the physician Luke is a people person:

Notice all the people in this chapter.

- A widow and a politician
- Pharisees and tax collectors – publicans
- Little children and adults
- Rich men and beggars

1. I need to realize that prayer is a great privilege

That we can talk to The God of heaven...
Prayer is the spiritual breath of the Christian...

The widow in this story...
The unjust judge – a tent set up and moved around
Only certain people could come and seek judgement

It was a court of law
Today, we can come to the throne of Grace

This widow had no access...
She was a woman – she had no influence
She was a widow – she had no money

Our access is based on Who Jesus Is and What He has promised us.

2. I need to know that prayer is absolutely necessary

The widow had an adversary – we have a adversary

The devil wants us to be discouraged and quit...

“Men ought always to pray”

We are dependant upon God and His Holy Spirit...

3. I need to realize that prayer must be urgent

We are not begging God...

This is a story of contrast...

The wicked friends of the unjust judge seemed to avoid judgment

The poor widow couldn't even get a hearing

The conditions are terrible...

Everything is against us in living the Christian life...

The prayer... “Avenge me of the adversary...”

We are no match for Satan... but Jesus is!!!!

The second Parable teaches us:

4. My prayer must be void of self-confidence

The Pharisee... he had no sense of need....

Compared himself with others...

Our first love – is a total dependence upon the Lord to help us every day in everything....

5. My prayer must be honest

The Tax collector – or publican

Beat upon his heart...

Out of the heart are the issues of life...

The important thing about prayer is the spirit in which it is expressed...

Not the mode or the form or the words themselves... but the spirit of the heart...

Honest, humble... poor in spirit...-

6. I must believe that my prayers will be answered.

Luke 18:8a

I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily.

Luke 18:14

“I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other....”

The prayer of the widow...

The prayer of the honest – sin conscious publican..

They were prevailing prayers...

The little children.... Is the way we must come....

Luke 18:15-17

Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”