

# With Jesus In the School of Prayer

Luke 11:1-13

- I. Introduction
  - a. Who, in your experience, offered the best prayers to God?
    - i. Most heartfelt and sincere
    - ii. Close to God
    - iii. If ever a prayer was heard in heaven it was this one
  - b. Consider the prayer life of Jesus:
    - i. He frequently went off to pray (Luke 5:15-16; 6:12; 9:28; 11:1; 22:41)
    - ii. No human being was ever closer to God (John 11:41-42; 10:31)
    - iii. No one is capable of more heart-felt prayer than Jesus' (Luke 22:41)
    - iv. What would it have been like to be with Jesus and hear him pray?
  - c. What might we learn by His example?
  - d. What might we learn from His teaching?
  - e. In Luke 11
    - i. His disciples heard Him pray
    - ii. They wanted Him to teach them to pray
- II. Jesus gave a teaching on prayer that we will examine in three main headings: Pray like This, Keep praying, and Know the One to whom you are praying
- III. Pray Like This (11:1-4)
  - a. The Model Prayer
    - i. Some parts missing
    - ii. Not a formula – more like a framework
    - iii. Likely taught several times
  - b. Content
    - i. Praise of God
    - ii. Requests
      - 1. Physical needs
        - a. Bare necessities
      - 2. Spiritual needs
        - a. Forgiveness
          - i. Contingent on our forgiveness of others
          - ii. How are we doing?
        - b. Protection
  - c. Clearly much more could be prayed for
    - i. This is perhaps the bare minimum of what a prayer might be
    - ii. But it carries the true essence of prayer
      - 1. Recognizing God for who He is
        - a. Infinitely superior to ourselves
        - b. Yet our Father
        - c. Having purposes and goals, to which we willingly submit ourselves.

2. Recognizing ourselves in total dependence upon him
    - a. Therefore needing and asking for our physical wants to be supplied by heaven
    - b. Therefore needing and asking for our spiritual needs
- IV. Keep Praying (11:5-10)
- a. The parable
    - i. Friend – but that counts for nothing
      1. Inconvenient
      2. Legitimate need – most likely a common request
      3. But refused out of hand
    - ii. The only thing that mattered was persistence
      1. He got as much as he needed
  - b. The lesson
    - i. It doesn't matter who your audience is, persistence will pay off
      1. Even if God were uncompassionate, unwilling and dismissive, He would answer eventually
      2. Even if He were an unjust judge, he would relieve the importunate widow just to get her off his back (Luke 18:1-8)
      3. This is not a lesson about who God is, it is a lesson of persistence
      4. Pray always and not lose heart. (Luke 18:1)
    - ii. So keep
      1. Asking
      2. Praying
      3. Knocking
- V. Know the one to Whom you are Praying (11:11-13)
- a. If we would have reason to hope for help simply because of persistence.
  - b. Then understanding the person of God compounds and multiplies that hope
  - c. Who is He?
    - i. He is the perfect heavenly father
    - ii. Earthly fathers do their children good and delight to respond to their requests with good gifts
    - iii. What about God?
    - iv. Regardless of what kind of Father you had, or whether you have a Father at all, as a disciple of Christ, you are the child of the most perfect Father there could ever be.
      1. Perfect in love
      2. Perfect in wisdom
      3. Perfect in power
    - v. Because of this
      1. He wants what is best for you
      2. He knows what is best for you
      3. He can do what is best for you

- d. What should be our attitude in approaching Him with requests for our physical and spiritual needs
  - i. Boldness
  - ii. Confidence
  - iii. Joy
  - iv. Hope and Expectation
- e. He not only supply what we cannot live without, he also supplies what we cannot even imagine
  - i. Not just daily bread but the bread of heaven
  - ii. Not just forgiveness and escape from temptation but the Holy Spirit
  - iii. Rom. 8:31-32
  - iv. Eph. 3:20

VI. Conclusion

- a. Who is teaching us this lesson on prayer?
  - i. Jesus Christ
  - ii. He was infinitely qualified to teach us to pray then
    - 1. The son of God
    - 2. The man of sorrows
  - iii. Even more so now
    - 1. Heb. 4:14-16
      - a. Passed through the heavens
      - b. Completely tested and sympathetic
- b. He makes promises on behalf of His Father to His disciples whose unbelievableness is only exceeded by his own personal trustworthiness
  - i. So that our wonder at their riches is overwhelmed
  - ii. By our delight in their assuredness
- c. He also calls all men to partake of these promises, not a select few, but all
  - i. Matt. 11:28-30
- d. Invitation