

With Jesus in the School of Prayer - Luke 11:1-13

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- 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 richness 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