

Luke 11:1-13

**Introduction:** This is the longest section of Jesus' teaching on prayer.

**We should follow His pattern as we pray—11:1-4**

- 1) Look for examples of people who pray well and learn from them—11:1
  - a) <sup>1</sup> *And it happened while He was praying in a certain place, when He finished, one of His disciples said to Him,*
    - i) Show proper respect when someone else is praying. Don't interrupt.
    - b) *"Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."*
    - c) Aren't you glad this anonymous person asked Jesus to do this? Jesus gives us a paradigm for prayer, but not a prayer to be simply repeated.
- 2) Pray to the Father—11:2a <sup>2</sup> *So He said to them, "When you<sup>pl</sup> pray, say: Our Father (nearness) who is in heaven (transcendence),*
  - a) This begins a repetition of what Jesus taught earlier during the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6:9-13.
- 3) Pray for the right things—11:2b-4 (6 aspects of Godward prayer)
  - a) For God's deserved reverence and respect—*May Your name be hallowed.*
  - b) For God's promised kingdom—*May Your kingdom come.*
  - c) For God's will—*May Your will be done, as in heaven so also upon the earth.*
  - d) For God's physical provision—<sup>3</sup> *Give us each day our daily bread.*
  - e) For God's forgiveness and spiritual harmony with God's family—<sup>4</sup> *And forgive us our sins, for **we** (emphatic) ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.*
  - f) For God's spiritual protection—*And do not bring us into temptation but rescue us from the evil one."*
    - i) A recognition of how easily we succumb to temptation; I don't want that.
    - g) What is omitted in this account? The affirmation concerning the kingdom.

**We should be boldly/confidently insistent as we pray—11:5-10**

- 1) -The principle illustrated—11:5-8
  - a) The potential scenario—11:5-7 <sup>5</sup> *And He said to them, "Which one of you<sup>pl</sup> who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me (the use of them and I'll pay you back tomorrow) three loaves, <sup>6</sup> because a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, (people sometimes traveled at night because of the heat during the day) and I have nothing to set before him'; <sup>7</sup> and that one, having responded from inside, says, 'Do not bother me; the door is shut, and my children are with me in bed (they all slept in one room and thus you are disturbing the whole family); I am not able to get up and give to you.'*
  - b) The emphasis of Jesus' story—11:8 <sup>8</sup> *I say to you<sup>pl</sup>,*
    - i) *even though he, having gotten up, will not give to him because he is a friend,*
    - ii) *yet because of his bold insistence [ἀναίδεια] he, having been raised (forced to get up because of his friend), will give to him as much as he needs.*
  - c) Correction of some thinking: God is not like the man in bed. The emphasis is on bold insistence in prayer. Pray while the need exists.

- 2) The principle explained—11:9-10
  - a) The commands to pray—11:9 <sup>9</sup> *So I (emphatic) say to you<sup>pl</sup>, ask, and it will be given to you<sup>pl</sup>; seek, and you<sup>pl</sup> will find; knock, and it will be opened to you<sup>pl</sup>.*
  - b) The reasons to obey these commands—11:10 <sup>10</sup> *For everyone who is characterized by asking receives, and the one characterized by seeking finds, and to the one characterized by knocking it will be opened.*

**We should trust in God's gracious willingness to respond as we pray—11:11-13**

- 1) Arguing from human goodness—11:11-12
  - a) <sup>11</sup> *Now what father among you<sup>pl</sup>, if a son asks for bread, will he give him a stone?*
  - b) *And if he asks for a fish, will he give him a (water-)snake?*
  - c) <sup>12</sup> *Or if he asks for an egg, will he give him a scorpion?*
  - d) God gives us neither what is useless or harmful to us. He is good and does good (Psalm 119:68). He is not cruel.
- 2) Arguing from the lesser to the greater—11:13
  - a) <sup>13</sup> *If **you<sup>pl</sup>** (emphatic), therefore, being evil [πονηρός], know how to give good [ἀγαθός] gifts to your<sup>pl</sup> children,*
  - b) *how much more will the Father from heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who are characterized by asking him!"*
    - i) This prayer was eventually answered in Acts 2, approximately 8-9 months after this teaching takes place.
    - ii) The greatest good believers receive from the Father is the Spirit. This assures us of His presence, His guidance, His enablement, and intimacy with Him.
- 3) Just as it honors a parent when a child asks and expects to receive what they need, so it honors the Father when we ask and expect to receive what we need.

**Take-home truth:** Honor God by going confidently to His throne of grace