

Pray Like We Mean It (Luke 11:1-13)

When you think of the most important things to do in a time of crisis, prayer (at least for a follower of Jesus) is top priority. If we're honest with ourselves, so many of us are insecure when it comes to our prayer life. I'm so glad the disciples asked Jesus *how to pray*. Besides giving them "what to say," Jesus also gave them a "how to approach the Father" lesson. His description of the generous open-handedness of God the Father is the clearest invitation I've seen for us to pray like we mean it.

1. A model prayer | What to say when you pray (Luke 11:1-4)

V2 "Father" = We're invited to call Him Father. Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 4:4-7

Jl Packer: *"He's my Father – and He's God in heaven; He's God in heaven and He's my Father...Grasp this or let it grasp you; then tell God what you feel about it; and that will be the worship that our Lord wanted to evoke when He gave us this thought-pattern..."*

"Hallowed be Your name" Holy; consecrated; sacred

"Your Kingdom Come" = The rule and reign of Jesus over us. It's a present reality and future hope.

"Renew the church, save sinners, restrain evil, heal the broken-hearted, restore those who are sick, expose injustice..." It's a powerful request.

VV4-5 GIVE US...FORGIVE US...LEAD US...

Help us see there's not a moment we don't need your grace in this fight.

2. An open invitation | How to approach The Father (Luke 11:5-13)

Like a friend asked to show hospitality at midnight (VV5-10)

V9 "And I tell you" ...ASK...SEEK...KNOCK. Refuse to give up! Be persistent.

Prayer is not "one and done" it's ongoing. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Like a father providing for / feeding his child (VV11-13)

Jesus is arguing from lesser to greater. There's no greater gift than the Holy Spirit = The leading and empowering presence of God the Spirit

God is always ready and willing to give. Pray with confidence.

3. Where do we go from here?

Habits of prayer don't just "happen."

Don't be fooled - prayer can feel painfully mundane at times but it's extraordinary in every way.

Remember this picture Jesus has given us.

QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 11:1-13. What is so significant about the fact that Jesus taught his disciples to address God as "Father"? Where do we get this right? How might that impact the way you approach God?
2. What does "Hallowed be your name" mean? What does "Your kingdom come mean"? What do these requests teach us? How might they "launch us" into places of further prayer?
3. Describe the type of requests made in VV3-4.
4. In VV5-13 The responsibility to practice hospitality in the ancient Middle East was taken seriously, and if a traveler arrived needing food and shelter, a person was under obligation to provide it. There are all sorts of ways God is not like the sleepy friend, but what is Jesus focusing on when he uses this illustration?
5. What does the example of God as father in VV11-13 teach us about the character of God?
6. Read VV9-10. God is not our "genie in a bottle" to do our bidding but he is eager, generous and ready to meet our needs. WE must be persistent in prayer and GOD is ready to give. How might you need to adjust your prayer life in light of these truths?
7. Share where God has clearly answered prayer, provided for needs or met requests? Maybe in ways you never would have imagined (but he did it anyway!).

PRAY: Take time to pray through VV2-4 *together*.