

WHAT PRAYER IS LIKE WHEN YOU PRAY

Message by the Rev. David H. Roseberry

Luke 11

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This sermon dealt with Jesus teaching on prayer from Luke 11. The passage has three main components: 1) the outline of the Lord's Prayer; 2) a parable about prayer; and 3) a three-word summary of what Christian prayer really is.

Questions:

1. Interestingly, the only time the disciple asked Jesus to actually teach them anything is in this passage: They ask Jesus to teach them about prayer. In your life who has taught you the most about prayer and other spiritual things? What effect of prayer did you/do you see in their life?
2. Look at the "rough draft" version of it in Luke 11 (as opposed to Matthew 6). Neither version begins with our own human needs. Instead, both prayers address the name, kingdom, (and will) of the Father. Why do you think the Lord's Prayer begins the way that it does?
3. Look over the three categories of human needs in the Lord's Prayer: bread for **today**; forgiveness for **yesterday's** sin; protection for **tomorrow's** unknowns. (see vs. 3-4) Which on of these speak mostly to your need right now?
4. Read the Parable of the Friend at Midnight (Luke 11:5-8). What would being 'bold' in your prayers really mean for you today? If God is NOT like the friend next door but instead is like a good father, what response would you expect to have from your heavenly father? (Luke 11:11-13)
5. How is Luke 18:1-8 very similar to Luke 11:5-8? What is the main point they are both trying to make?
6. "If they can put a man on the moon..." is a rhetorical trump card. How does Luke 11:11-13 do the same thing about our Father in heaven?
7. **Ask. Seek. Knock.** Why would Jesus choose these three words to sum up the topic of prayer? Could you imagine using them in your personal prayers?



"It is in the field of prayer that life's critical battles are lost or won. We must conquer all our circumstances there. We must first of all bring them there. We must survey them there. We must master them there. In prayer we bring our spiritual enemies into the Presence of God and we fight them there. Have you tried that? Or have you been satisfied to meet and fight your foes in the open spaces of the world?"

- J. H. Jowett



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