

Lord, Teach us to Pray – Luke 11:1-13

Moms, and Dads, have your children ever helped you fix something broken...

- You are working on their bicycle, or a shelf, or maybe one of their toys, and the child doesn't just want the thing fixed; he or she wants to learn to do what his dad does.
- They may ask all kinds of questions, "What's that?" speaking of the wrench, or "Why did you do it that way?" But then they may ask one of the greatest questions...
- Daddy, can you teach me? Can you show me how to fix that...

That's the disciples.

- They didn't ask Jesus to pray for them. They asked Him to teach them to pray. And here's the beautiful thing — Jesus didn't say, "Watch me and imitate the words." He said, in effect, "Let me show you the heart behind it."
- When the disciples watched Jesus pray, they saw something they didn't understand.
- They had just watched Jesus spend time in intimate conversation with God — and they realized they wanted that too.
- That's what this message is about. ***Not memorizing a technique, but learning a relationship.***

Title of the Message: Lord, Teach us to Pray – Luke 11:1-13

Luke 11:1-2 - Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, *that* one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." ² So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven.

Luke 11:3-4 - ³ Give us day by day our daily bread. ⁴ And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one."

Luke 11:5-8 - ⁵ And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; ⁶ for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; ⁷ and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'? ⁸ I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, ***yet because of his persistence*** he will rise and give him as many as he needs.

Luke 11:9-13 - ⁹ "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if *he asks* for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

He explains the pattern of prayer (11:2-4).

This is often called the Lord's Prayer, I prefer the term Model Prayer, because in it, Jesus is teaching them how to pray.

- As He already said in the Sermon on the Mount, Pray this way! "...after this manner pray..."
 - The disciples realized that Jesus did not pray like other rabbis – It was intimate and relational
 - Don't pray with vain repetition as the heathen do
 - Don't pray with pompous and pious spirit like the hypocrites do = That they may be seen of men...
- Having seen Jesus pray on multiple occasions, recognizing that Jesus prayed differently than anyone else, the disciples said, "Lord, would you teach us to pray like that?"

So Jesus uses the same / similar model or pattern he taught in the Sermon on the Mount

Lord, Teach us to PRAY – Pattern is simple, memorable, and transferable **Praise – Our Father...Hallowed be Your Name (not mine)**

Luke 11:2 - Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

Praise has been described as the front door

- **Psalm 100:4** - Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, *And* into His courts with praise.
- **Psalm 22:3** - O thou that inhabits the praises of Israel.



John MacArthur wrote, "Our Father, who loves us and cares for us, and who has in heaven supplies to meet our every need; may Your person, Your identity, Your character, Your nature, Your attributes, Your reputation, Your very being itself be hallowed." To hallow God's name is not some glib phrase inserted into a prayer ritual; it is your opportunity to glorify Him by acknowledging the greatness and wonder of His character. (MacArthur, *Alone with God*, p. 70)

Repent – Thy Kingdom Come / Thy Will be done

Forgive me for not being about your business – align my heart with your purposes and priorities

- When we think of **Thy Kingdom Come**, we often think of Future Kingdom – Getting out of this world and going to heaven.
- A Better way to understand this phrase is **Thy Kingdom advance in me, in my community, in my nation, in the world.**
 - As followers of Christ, we should long for the full expression of the Kingdom of God (Redemptive Rule of Jesus)
 - The Kingdom of God / Heaven was inaugurated in Jesus first coming; we await the full expression of His Kingdom
 - When you pray *Thy Kingdom Come*, you are saying to the Holy Spirit, "Have Your way with me. Take control. Do whatever you will do for your glory!"

Forgive me for not being obedient – Thy will be done... not mine

- Any area of disobedience – Doing what we are supposed to do.
- Is there lack of obedience – Not doing what we are supposed to do.

TFBC's Mission is to equip you to relentlessly pursue God's design so that we can bring hope and renewal to every person and every place in Thorsby and Beyond for the glory of Jesus' name.

"God, break into our lives and world with greater power and authority. Save, heal, redeem, and rescue even more than you have done in times past. And do it today!" (Gallaty, *Here and Now*, p. 66-67)

Ask – Provision, Pardon, Protection,

Once we have aligned our hearts with God's priorities, we should ask for what we need:

Luke 11:3-4 - ³ Give us day by day our daily bread. ⁴ And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one."

Provision – Daily Bread – The Lord knows what you need, and will provide – Mt. 6 Birds/Lillies

Pardon – Sins Forgiven – Psalm 139:23-24 – Search me, O God...lead me...

Protection – Deliver from the evil one – Eph. 6:10-18 – Suit up

Yield – For thine is the Kingdom Power and Glory forever, Amen

Jesus does not explicitly state this here, but does so in Sermon on the Mount

- Yield yourself to the Lord, Paul said, I die daily.
- **Romans 12:1** - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service*.
- **Romans 6:13** – "...but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as instruments of righteousness* to God.
- **Illustration** - In a church service one Sunday, the offering plate came to a little girl at the end of a row. She took the plate, put it down on the floor, and stood in it. When the usher asked her what she was doing, she responded, "In Sunday school I learned that I was supposed to give myself to God."
- Pray, "Lord, I yield myself to you...I Yield my mind, eyes, ears, mouth, hands, feet
- I yield heart to you – let action, reaction, or interaction be pleasing in your sight.

Think of it this way...

"Praise puts God in His place. Repent puts us in ours. Ask brings our needs. Yield brings our will."

"So we have the **pattern** of prayer — Praise, Repent, Ask, Yield.

- But here's the question every honest prayer warrior eventually asks: What happens when I pray the pattern and nothing seems to change?
- That's exactly what Jesus addresses next — because He knew we'd give up. So He tells a story about persistence."

He emphasizes persistence in prayer (11:5-10).

Jesus says, you guys have some family and friends come in the middle of the night...

Luke 11:7-8 - ⁷ and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you?' ⁸ I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, **yet because of his persistence** he will rise and give him as many as he needs.

Their World vs. Ours: Their world had no instant access. Here in lies the Problem

- If a guest arrived at midnight and the cupboard was bare, there was no delivery app, no 24-hour store, no "one-click." You had to walk to a neighbor's house, knock, and ask — and then you *waited* at the door.
- In that culture, hospitality was sacred; a household's honor depended on feeding the guest (Luke 11:5-6). Everything came through *relationships*, and relationships move at the pace of trust, not transactions.

Our world runs on instant gratification.

- Streaming on demand. One-click shopping. Food in thirty minutes. We've been trained by the scroll — if something takes longer than a loading bar, we swipe away.
- And here's the danger: **we bring that mindset to prayer.** We treat prayer like a vending machine — insert request, expect immediate delivery. When God doesn't answer on our timeline, we assume He doesn't care. Or we give up.

The convicting question: *We'll refresh a package tracker for days, but we won't persist three minutes in prayer.* We're willing to wait for the things we really want. The question is whether we really want God.

The contrast: The Reluctant Friend vs. The Father's Willingness

Jesus is making a "lesser-to-greater" argument (Luke 11:8).

- **The friend is reluctant.** He's in bed, the door is shut, his children are asleep. He answers not out of love but to get rid of the knocking. He gives *grudgingly*.
- **The Father is willing.** He's not annoyed, not asleep, not put out. He's a loving Father who *wants* to give. The friend gives because he's bothered; the Father gives because He's good (Luke 11:11-13).

Here's the key insight: **persistence doesn't change God — it changes us.**

- The knocking doesn't wear God down; it shapes our hearts. It builds dependence, deepens desire, and teaches us what we actually need.
- The Greek word behind "persistence" carries the idea of *shamelessness* — the man won't be embarrassed into silence. Jesus invites us to come to the Father with holy boldness, not hesitancy (Hebrews 4:16).
- And notice: the man isn't asking for *himself* — he's asking for bread for a *guest*. There's an intercessory dimension: some of our most persistent prayers should be for others.

I want you to notice the need – The man asked for bread...

but our deepest need is the **Bread of Life** (John 6:35).

- And God's willingness isn't a theory:
- Paul said in **Romans 8:32** - He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

- The cross is the proof that the Father is *not* a reluctant friend. He already gave the hardest gift — His Son.

The takeaway: Persistence in prayer isn't nagging a reluctant God. It's a child who keeps knocking because he *knows* his Father is willing — and keeps knocking until his heart catches up with what his Father wants to give.

Application: Do we give up too quickly? Do we treat prayer like a vending machine — put in a request, expect instant results? Jesus says keep knocking.

Jesus explains the pattern of prayer, He emphasizes persistence in prayer

We expect provision from prayer (11:11-13).

"If a grumpy friend, annoyed in the middle of the night, will finally get up and hand over bread — how much more will your Father in heaven give? That's the argument Jesus makes, and He doesn't stop there."

Luke 11:9-13 - "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ If a **son** asks for bread from any **father** among you, will he give him a stone? Or if *he asks* for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more** will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

Notice the Progression: **Ask, Seek, Knock (keep on...)**

O. S. Hakins: Effective prayer is wrapped up with His will for our lives. If we know His will in a matter, we "ask." If we do not know His will, we are to "seek." If we know His will but the answer has not come, we are to "knock" until the door opens. (Hawkins, *The Joshua Code*, p. 50)

Asking: Presenting a Petition

- We know God's Will in a matter. We can ask in confidence
- Here is the promise, You will receive.

Seeking: Pressing a Petition

- This is Next level – Goes beyond presenting a need – This is when you do not know God's will in a matter – We seek until we find.
- We must ask according to God's Will –
- **I John 5:14-15** - Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

- **John 14:13-14** - And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.
- ***This is why the Pattern is so important – We align ourselves with God's Purposes and Priorities...***

Knocking: Persisting in a Petition

- We feel certain we know God's will in a matter but we have not seen the answer come to fruition.
- The man knocks on the friend's door...but doesn't leave
- Knocking is the posture of *stubborn, shameless persistence*. It's the boldest of the three verbs.
 - **Asking** says, "I need you" (the heart).
 - **Seeking** says, "I'm looking for you" (the hands).
 - **Knocking** says, "*I'm at your door, and I'm not going away until I've spoken to you*" (the feet — planted, refusing to leave).

Truth: Knocking feels like Nagging

- It sounds like we're bothering God, wearing Him down, being an annoyance. And if that's what it meant, it would be wrong — because God isn't a reluctant friend who needs to be pestered.
- Jesus says the *opposite*: if a grumpy neighbor eventually answers, **how much more** will a loving Father respond (Luke 11:11-13)?

So knocking is *not* about bothering God. **Knocking is about refusing to let go of God.** It's the difference between:

- **Asking** — voicing a need and walking away.
- **Knocking** — voicing a need and *staying at the door*.

Knocking is what we do when the answer doesn't come quickly and we *stay anyway*. It's persistence when it would be easier to give up. It's faith that says, "*I don't know when you'll answer, God, but I know you're on the other side of this door.*"

Knocking Is Also About Barriers

Think about what a knock actually is: it's a hand against a *closed door*.

- Knocking assumes there's something between you and the person inside. And that's honest — there often *is* a barrier between us and God: our sin, our doubt, our impatience, our grief.
- Knocking is the act of *standing on the other side of the barrier and refusing to let it be the end*. It's saying, "*I can't open this door myself — but I'm going to keep knocking until the One inside opens it for me.*"
- Knocking is the admission that we can't force our way in, *and* the faith that the One inside will open.

Here is the Beautiful Truth: Knocking doesn't Change God – It Changes us!

- Every knock is a step of faith. Every unanswered knock teaches us **patience**.

- Every time we stay at the door, we're saying, "*I believe you're there, and I believe you'll open.*"
- That faith — that staying — is exactly what the Father wants to build in us.

And notice: **the man in the story wasn't knocking for himself.** He was knocking for a *guest* (Luke 11:6). So knocking at its most faithful is often *intercessory* — we knock for people who can't knock for themselves yet.

Here is a Great Truth:

- And the deepest thing about knocking is this: **the One behind the door is not a stranger — He's your Father.** And He's already proven He opens doors: the cross is the door He opened that no one else could (Romans 8:32).
- So we knock — not because God is hard to reach, but because the child who stays at the door learns the Father's heart.

Luke 11:13 - ¹³ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more** will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

Notice it — Jesus doesn't say the Father gives **things**.

- He says the Father gives **Himself**. The Holy Spirit is God's own presence poured into your life. The provision of prayer isn't a package delivered to your doorstep — it's the Giver opening the door and walking in.
- **The man in the story asked for bread.** And bread was good — he needed it.
- But Jesus is showing us that the Father's answer is always greater than the request: you ask for bread, **and He gives you the Baker.**
- You ask for help, and He gives you Himself. The ultimate provision of prayer is not what God gives — it's **who** God is."

Call to Action

This week, live the pattern:

- **Praise** — *start each day with who God is.*
- **Repent** — *be honest about your sin.*
- **Ask** — *bring your needs boldly.*
- **Yield** — *surrender your will to His.*

And if you've never prayed in faith — or you've drifted from Him — know this: the One who teaches us to say "Father" is Himself the way home.

First Service – I've wondered far away from God, Now I'm coming Home

- *Come to Jesus – Repent of your sins, Put your faith in Him and his finished work on Calvary. Call upon his name for salvation.*
- *Come Home*

Don't Stop Praying

- *Don't Stop Praying for that prodigal. Don't stop praying for sick loved one. Don't stop praying for that failing marriage. Don't stop praying for strength to overcome battles. Don't stop praying for reconciliation.*

Second Service – Run to the Father

- *I run to the Father, I fall into grace*
- *I'm done with the hiding, no reason to wait*
- *My heart needs a surgeon, my soul needs a friend*
- *So I'll run to the Father again and again and again and again*

Great Resources:

Steve Gaines – [Pray Like it Matters – Link](#)

John MacArthur – [Alone with God - Link](#)

Previous Sermon

Marc Hodges - [Pray Like This - Link](#)

