

Lesson 11

CHAPTER 11, THE LORD'S PRAYER AND YOU

As Jesus moves closer and closer to Jerusalem, his teachings get increasingly more urgent. His heart's desire is that all of Israel would come to the knowledge that he is the long-awaited Messiah, the Anointed One called by God to set his people free. The issue was that the freedom Israel desired was political freedom from the shackles of Rome. Jesus offered spiritual freedom from the shackles of sin and death. Do they want that kind of freedom?

1. In the beginning of Luke 11, Jesus answers the request of his disciples to teach them how to pray. No doubt the twelve had seen Jesus pray often and with astounding results. Read Luke 11:1-4 with Matthew 6:9-13. This prayer is for those who believe. What does "hallowed (or holy) be your name" mean to you? Who in your life do you need to forgive? Why is this important? (See Matthew 6:14-15), Do you go before the Lord daily with your needs? Why is this important?

2. Read Luke 11:5-13. God is likened to two relationships; what are they? What do these verses say about the heart of God? The persistence of prayer?

3. In Luke 11:13, what does Jesus say about the gift of the Holy Spirit? Relate this to Revelation 3:20.

4. Read Luke 11:14-23. Who is the "strong man"? See John 12:31. Who is the "stronger one"? How do you see Jesus drawing a line in the sand in these verses?

5. In Luke 11:24-32, 37-52, Jesus pronounces what judgment will befall Israel if they do not repent and turn to him. He uses two Old Testament people as example. What is Jesus saying about Israel of his day and Jonah? (See Jonah 3. For fun read all of the book of Jonah). For more information about the Queen of the South (Sheba) see 1 Kings 10:1-13. What is Jesus pointing out in this comparison?

6. The Israelites of Jesus' day refused to turn to him. Jesus pronounced judgment on their religious leaders. What does he say about their leadership? What is the judgment for Israel and their leaders in verse 50?

APPLICATION: This week concentrate on the words of the Lord's Prayer. Say it over and over. What phrase quickens to you? Write it down and ponder it in your heart. Let the Holy Spirit reveal anything that you need to be aware of.

PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, show us how to "hallow" your name in a world that fails to do that. Give us daily time with you to honor you, and to repent of those things that are not pleasing to you. Keep us from evil and temptation knowing that through you we have the ability to resist the ways of this world, the flesh and the devil. We give you and your Son all glory in this world and in the next. Amen.