

# Luke 11:1-13

## Prayer

Image Church // The Gospel of Luke: Inverted Kingdom Wk. 14

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### Introduction

Hey Image Family!

If you're **NEW**... *Connection center*

If you have your bibles go ahead and turn to Luke 11...

We've been on this journey together through the gospel of Luke...

And what we've seen so far within the first **9 chapters** is who Jesus is, and we've looked at what that means for us...

And we've seen some incredible realities revealed in those first **9 chapters** as Jesus gives us a glimpse into God's Kingdom...

And then in **chapter 10** there's a shift from *who Jesus is* to *what it looks like to follow Him*, and so far, we've seen the call to be *gospel messengers, gospel neighbors*, now we're going to look at what it looks like to be *prayers*... *Flesh out...*

Here's the reality though I think prayer is incredibly underrated and misunderstood...

**DA Carson** said if you really want to embarrass [a] Christian, just ask him or her to tell you about their private prayer life!

I think the reason for that reality is that we really don't understand prayer...

Listen, prayer plays a key role in the life and ministry of Jesus... Let me show you what I mean:

- **Luke 3:21** Jesus prays at His baptism...
- **Luke 4:1** Jesus prays through His temptation...
- **Luke 5:16** Says that Jesus often withdrew to pray...
- **Luke 6:12** shows us that Jesus spent the night praying before he appointed the disciples...
- **Luke 9:18** we see Jesus again off praying right before He asks His disciples who people say He is...
- **Luke 9:29** after the disciples made their confession of faith, Jesus took the disciples on a mountain to pray...
- **Luke 10:2** Jesus tells His followers to pray for missional laborers...
- **Luke 11:1-13** where we are today, Jesus is going to teach on prayer...
- Then again in **Luke 18:1-8** Jesus will teach on prayer again saying to always pray...
- In **Luke 22:32** Jesus prayed for Peter...
- In **Luke 22:39** Jesus tells His disciples to pray that they will not fall into temptation...
- And then in **Luke 23:46** we see that even Jesus' words were a prayer...

Remember Jesus is the *means* of our salvation but He's also the *model* for how saved people live... And what we see is that Jesus' life was marked by prayer... Prayer was a connection point with the Father, it was a means of power, it was an anchor of dependence...

If Jesus was dependent on prayer as a means of power and connection, what does this mean for us?!?

**Trevin Wax** says this: **If we were to be honest, many of us believe that the "heavy lifting" of ministering to our city comes in the form of our Sunday gatherings, community groups, missional events, etc. While these things are necessary, when it comes to prayer, we're often times "functional atheists."**

## Luke 11:1-13

**1** He was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples."

So, what we're about to see is a model that serves as a template for how we should pray... This is important to understand because for many this is a *liturgy* that people just recite and in doing that we can miss the purpose that it serves for us...

*So, let's take a look at Jesus' template for prayer...*

**2** He said to them, "Whenever you pray, say, Father,

Father...

**Tim Lucas:** *Any understanding of prayer begins with the recognition of who is on each end of the line.*

**Andrew Murray would say it like this:** *It is in prayer and its answer that the interchange of love between the father and his child takes place, it is to pray that God has given the right to take hold of him, and his strength.*

**For many of us we miss God as Dad...**

- **Example:** my kids want to be with me because they know I love them...
- God wants the same for us!

I want to acknowledge this: for some of you the word ***father is painful...***

- You need to see how much your heavenly Father loves you... He let His Son die for you... God went to great lengths to make you part of his family...

**Jon Tyson,** *Unless you break the stronghold of false images of God in your mind, you'll never be drawn to prayer.*

***We have to understand who we are talking to when we pray... We are talking to our Dad...***

*Then here's the next part:*

***your name be honored as holy.***

This is a request, not just a declaration...

- The verb here is passive...
- This whole prayer is a request

Would God be holy to me- would it be set apart above everything else... I want you to be first before everything else...

Oh how our eyes shift... We need God to help us keep our eyes on Him...

- I wonder how many of you are trying to do this on your own apart from asking the Lord to help us here??
- Trying to manufacture this as opposed to asking for this!

*Then Jesus says this:*

***Your kingdom come.***

***Advance your mission-*** Would you come Lord Jesus- please return and make all things new!

- Come complete what you started!

***Advance in my heart-*** would I believe the reality of your kingdom and live it out in my life...

- *Live with an eternal perspective, would I be about the things you're about... Would I be centered on your Kingdom and not mine...*

*Here's the next thing Jesus holds up:*

***3 Give us each day our daily bread.***

God give us what we **need** on a daily basis...

We need to assume the posture of asking God to **provide** what we need...

- This is asking God to meet our physical needs...

I also think there's a spiritual element to this, that our greatest daily need would be met, that God would be the sustain substance in our life, that more than needing bread, what we need is Him and when we're feasting on Him we can trust that He will meet our needs...

- Jesus would say that He is the bread of life... He is what we need for life more than food...

I actually think there's **a key here to why we aren't more serious about our prayer life...**

- Because we think that we can make it on our own... That we can provide for ourselves...
- We look to other things to sustain us other than Jesus...

And then Jesus moves to something else here in His model...

**4 And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone in debt to us.**

Here Jesus points us to **confession**:

- Acknowledging your sin before a perfect and Holy God...
- Acknowledging how you see the sin of others in light of the forgiveness you have received...

I love asking **for forgiveness** here...

- It shows us that repentance is more than feeling bad, it is a grabbing hold of the forgiveness extended through Christ...
- Repentance is an action not a feeling...

And then Jesus closes out with this:

**And do not bring us into temptation."**

Jesus models praying for **protection** here: The Bible is clear in **James 1:13-14** that God doesn't cause us to sin, so what is Jesus pointing to here...

He's saying that we should pray for God to not let us **succumb to temptation...**<sup>1</sup>

- Would you help me not to believe other things are better than you...

So let me summarize the model like this...

- **Adoration** - would we adore you
- **Advancement** – would your Kingdom advance- would you return and make all things new... Would your Kingdom advance in me and through me!
- **Provision** – Would you meet my physical needs and my deepest spiritual needs...
- **Confession** – would you forgive me, and help me anchor myself in the gospel, and would you help me forgive others...
- **Protection** – would you protect me from falling into temptation believing that other things are better than you!

Remember this is a template not a recital, it's a way to pray, it's not the only way to pray, we see lots of other prayers in the NT after this...

- It gets at the heart of prayer, **that prayer is not a discipline, it is a posture of dependence based out of desperation...**
- It's not just praying more for the sake of praying, but realizing how much you're in need of God...
  - Each point that Jesus holds up are places where we have to be desperately dependent on God...
  - **Until we see it as that we will fail to be a people of prayer...**

**Example:**

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<sup>1</sup> Mark Driscoll, *Pray like Jesus*.

- One of the most famous football plays is rooted in prayer... It's called a Hail Mary...
  - *Explain what it is...* And that it's a point where you have nothing left... You're desperate and you're depending on this one play to make it happen...

I think this should be the attitude of the Christian life... That we are **desperate** and we're **dependent** on God to come through...

I want to challenge you with rethinking what prayer is about...

- Rethinking about it in the sense that you ***don't pray because God tells you to pray, or God needs you to pray, but you pray because you need to pray...***

Your heart needs it... I want you to think about it like this **Tim Lucas**: *What if prayer wasn't to fill God in, but for him to fill us up? What if prayer wasn't about transactions and requests, but about renewing a relationship every day?*<sup>2</sup>

**Jesus is now going to make a shift from what to pray to how to approach prayer... What does desperate dependence look like?**

**Verse 5** He also said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him at midnight and says to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, **6** because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I don't have anything to offer him.' **7** Then he will answer from inside and say, 'Don't bother me! The door is already locked, and my children and I have gone to bed. I can't get up to give you anything.' **8** I tell you, even though he won't get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his friend's shameless boldness, he will get up and give him as much as he needs."

***Flesh out the situation here...***

Key theme: **shameless boldness**...

- With no concern for your own dignity...
- Scandalous...

***Beautiful part:***

God is not like the man in bed... He's contrasted to the man in bed... How much more will God delight in your shameless boldness...

The ability to be Shamelessly bold comes through incredible faith. I think we say God is God, but we don't pray that way...

- We think we'll catch God off guard...

Check this out... And when you pray with ***shameless boldness*** you're anchoring your faith in God...

What is it that you need to be praying about shamelessly and boldly??

**Verse 9:**

**9** "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. **10** For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

Ask and it will be given... don't disconnect this from the previous... we are asking for things that are inline God's heart...

Key theme here: **Continual dependence**...

3 things repeated here... point... be persistent in prayer!

**Ask-** pray

**Seek-** pursue God's Kingdom goals

**Knock-** come to God's presence...

***For every challenge there is a corresponding answer...***

<sup>2</sup> Tim Lucas, *Honest To God*.

Tethers to the first part of the parable that God will not leave the door locked but will open it to those who come in faith...

*If this is true then why do we not pray more??*

For us to be **persistent** in prayer we have to see our need for **dependence**...

- We can't but God can... We are in desperate need...

**Paul Miller:** *If you are not praying, then you are quietly confident that time, money, and talent are all you need in life. You'll always be a little too tired, a little too busy to pray. But if, like Jesus, you realize you can't do life on your own, then no matter how busy, no matter how tired you are, you will find the time.*

Man, this is so true... How many of you parents feel this way?? If I can just read a book...

**Elyse Fitzpatrick**<sup>3</sup> *Give them Grace:* She says what Christian books on parenting are trying to do... give you a formula, and tell you that if you follow it, it will guarantee success in parenting...

- But she points out that God was a perfect father and 1/3 of angels and the two humans he created rebelled...
- She's like, "So, you think you'll be able to out-technique God?"
- She says the really dangerous problem with thinking there is a foolproof way of parenting is it keeps us from the one thing we most need; that is, to cast ourselves down at the feet of Jesus, looking to him for his mercy in our kids' lives. To do what we can't do...

***The same is true in all other areas of our life***<sup>4</sup>

My hope for my parenting, my marriage isn't in good Christian techniques in relationships (as important as those are). At the end of

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<sup>3</sup> Credit goes to JD Greear, *How to deal with unanswered prayer.*

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

the day my hope is in God's grace and the power of God wot work in those areas in spite of me...

My hope for success in our mission here as a church doesn't lie in a superior strategy, or special talent, great preaching or good people, it's based on the impact of God's grace and His power to work through us...

Listen, no skill, not even biblical skill, is sufficient to change you or get you to where you want to be...

We often think that if we can learn all the biblical principles and think that those by themselves guarantee spiritual life.

- Jesus didn't save us by teaching us principles but by giving us resurrection power that we access through prayer!

***The pastor says it like this:*** *It is a tragedy to master the principles and then forget the dependency in a relationship that gives them life...*<sup>5</sup>

***Ask, seek, knock...***

**God and unanswered prayer...**

***What if it's less about the outcome, what if it's more about the obstacle of our faith...***

This is a tough one... Very real for me and Ashley right now

- Braxton...

**\*Charles Martin in *They turned the world upside down:*** I don't pray because everyone is healed, I pray out of obedience, if I stop praying the problem is me not Him. So regardless of the outcome I pray, I believe in...

- There is a difference *in* believing in and believing *that*...

**Verse 11:**

**11** What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead of a fish? **12** Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

scorpion? **13** If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

Key theme: **Trust in a good father...**

- Gives us why we need it when we need it..
- Funny examples of kids wanting things not good for them...
- God tells us what is best for us...

Holy Spirit- everything that we need found there- given to us through the finished work of Jesus...

- ***Gospel!***

## **Conclusion [VAMP]**

Christian...

Non-Christian...

Pray