



**How to Improve Our Practice of Prayer**  
**Luke 11:1-4**

**We need a place for prayer.**

<sup>1</sup> Now Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”

**Text Message:**

- Both the Gospel of Matthew and Luke record Jesus giving the Lord’s Prayer, but only in Luke is it in the context of Jesus Himself praying. Here we get Jesus’ practice of prayer.
- Notice that Jesus was not only praying but praying “in a certain place.” *Isn’t it interesting we are not told where?*
- What is important here is not the certain place *where* Jesus was praying but *that* He was praying in a certain place!
- *Do you have your certain place of prayer?*
- Write down three possible places for prayer:
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_.
- If you cannot find the perfect place, choose a possible place!
- In other words, it’s more important to have a certain place for prayer than for that place to be perfect!

**We need a passion for prayer.**

<sup>1</sup> Now Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”

**Text Message:**

- “Prayer is nothing at all unless it is a matter of vast and all-consuming importance for each one of us.”  
Pete Greig, *How to Pray*
- We get a tiny glimpse here of Jesus’ passion for prayer. The word translated “finished” here literally means “to pause,” and is the Greek verb from which we get our English word.
- Jesus didn’t finish prayer, He merely paused in prayer!
- It is telling that only one disciple made the request for Jesus to teach them to pray- *Will you be the one today?*
- What is important for us here is that a passion for prayer, like most activities we enjoy, must be developed.
- A passion for prayer is not developed automatically but in the dark room of willingness, patience and learning to pray.
- Perhaps we never outgrow the prayer, “Lord, teach us to pray.”
- We can rest in the truth that Jesus still teaches disciples to pray!

**We need a plan for prayer.**

<sup>2</sup> And he said to them, “When you pray, say:

**Text Message:**

- This seems to be the all-too obvious yet overlooked aspect of prayer!
- When Jesus’ disciple asked Him to teach them to pray, Jesus didn’t give them principles- He gave them a prayer!
- In other words, He told them exactly what to say!
- Whether prayed in a minute or as a model, let us not think we can improve on the prayer Jesus gave!
- When we pray the Lord’s Prayer, we:
  - 1) Avoid the pitfall of making prayer a “laundry list” of wants.
  - 2) Acknowledge the priorities of our heavenly Father.
- This week, pray and meditate on the Lord’s Prayer!