

Jesus & Prayer – Luke 11:1-13

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Luke, with his focus upon His humanity, emphasized the prayer life of Jesus. Prayer is stated at least twenty-five times. Other times it was obvious. Jesus did not have time to eat or to sleep (Mark 3:20; 6:31-46). But He took (made) time to pray. Jesus used prayer as His own personal resource. If Jesus needed to pray, how much do we?

We must _____ God, _____ God, trust and obey God. Without this praying is pointless! Prayer is our response to God. Prayer is to be handled with great reverence and respect. We must be honor God as God. Therefore prayer is not technique; it is a relationship. People who need God pray.

It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples." And He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. 'Give us each day our daily bread. 'And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.' " (Luke 11:1-4)

I. Prayer Is Faith

Prayer is crucial because it demonstrates our relationship with God, our real faith, our very lives. If we pray little or none, we simply don't trust God.

There is a big difference between the disciples asking, "Teach us to pray" and "Teach us how to pray." The only way to learn to pray is to _____.

Prayer is: _____; submission; _____; looking up to God; _____; it is life with God. Any failure is a prayer failure. When we sin we have failed in prayer.

"The greatest thing anyone can do for God and man is pray. It is not the only thing, but it is the chief thing. The great people of earth are the people who pray. I do not mean those who talk about prayer; Nor those who say they believe in prayer; Nor yet those who can explain about prayer; But I mean those people who take the time to pray."
- S.D. Gordon

II. Prayer Is Force

Prayer is more than a _____ it is a force! Jesus never taught his disciples to say a little prayer. Saying a prayer and praying are different. When the church prayed in Acts the house shook! What would happen if our church began to pray! Prayer is the most practical thing we can do.

III. Prayer Is Form

Even though the disciples asked to "teach us to pray," the _____ is implied. We must always begin with the basics.

IV. Prayer Is Perseverance

In answering the disciples request Jesus simply gave them a simple form to follow. This could have been disappointing. You just begin in this form and persist. That means prayer is _____ and it is difficult, it takes time. Prayer is us persevering!

Then He 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; for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and from inside he answers and says, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' "I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs. (Luke 11:5-8)

V. Prayer Is Receiving

"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. "For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened. (Luke 11:9-10)

Someone observed that _____ definite requests appear in the bible, with _____ having specific answers. That is high percentage!

Conclusion

"...You do not have because you do not ask." (James 4:2c)

Prayer cannot be answered until we have prayed. Our problem is not unanswered prayer but unprayed prayer! Consider these questions: If we knew that Jesus would return tomorrow, how much of today would be given to prayer? In heaven won't most of us confess, I should have prayed more?

Questions For Study

1. How is having faith in God different from having faith in prayer?
2. What is the connection between humility and acceptable prayer?
3. What qualities did the disciples see in Jesus' prayer life?
4. How is "saying a prayer" different from praying?
5. What would happen here at Central if we all began to pray?
6. What are some prayer clichés that have lost their force?
7. How is God's provision for us similar to a father's provision for his children? (Luke 11:11-13)