

Impetuous Prayer
Luke 11.1-13

I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell 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 the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

This Parable is answering three questions.

The “how” question.

The “what” question.

The “empowerment” question.

Last week we were looking at a horizontal parable. It was a parable that teaches a lesson on discipleship person to person. It answered the question, “who is my neighbor?”

The parable this week teaches a lesson on vertical discipleship. How do I commune with the father? “Teach us to pray.” Jesus gives them a short model for a disciple’s community prayer. We will pray this prayer every Sunday in July. It is like the Lord’s Prayer, but it is given in the last year of Jesus ministry. We don’t know which disciple asked, but remember, disciples came and went and this one might not have been at the Sermon on the Mount.

One declaration: “Father.”

Two statements: “Holy is your name, and Your kingdom.”

Three requests: for our bread, forgiveness, and leading.

One Reminder: We must also forgive.

How do I approach God in prayer? The parable teaches that you go bold. Not arrogantly, not without respect, but with the expectation that you will be heard, understood and the things you pray for others and self will be answered with the kingdom’s best interests – God’s will accomplished. We do not go timidly to the throne; we go boldly as obedient adopted children; asking for the car keys and a tank of gas for righteous purposes.

What do you pray for? Whatever you need or whatever someone else needs to grow, develop, and do His will. Bread-(us) physical and spiritual are necessary. Forgiveness—(us), and leading—(us) don’t miss the plural. I pray for you pray for me. Boldly!

God will give you what you need. The world will give you a dangerous counterfeit: Serpent instead of a fish and a scorpion in place of an egg. The Father will give you the thing you need the most, the gift of the Holy Spirit (vs 13). This gift, along with the Word empowers you as a Son or Daughter to have bread, forgiveness, and vision to evade/escape temptation.

Christian, go forward; ask, seek, and knock with confidence.

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