

## Luke 11:1-13

### Verse 1:

***--Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him. "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."***

--Jesus is praying somewhere within proximity of His disciples, which seems to have been a common occurrence (9:18). His disciples are so impacted by His prayer life that one them (we don't know if it was one of the 12 or 70, but thank God for whoever it was!) approached Him and made this request.

--Many of Christ's followers had been previous disciples of John the Baptist, but they saw in Christ something even more spiritual and heavenly than what John had taught them.

--If we are honest, we can all admit to needing to enter into Jesus' school of prayer!

***--Lord, teach us to pray.*** . . . No one can pray like Jesus, and no one can teach like Jesus.

--Begin your prayer internship by grabbing your Bible, re-reading the gospels, and diligently following your Lord as He prays. There are at least fifteen separate occasions recorded of Him praying (eleven of which Luke records), and even more of Him expounding.

--Take note of *where* He prays, *how* He prays, *when* He prays, and *what* He prays. You will learn a great deal about prayer.

--He knows how to pray as the Son of Man.

***\*Hebrews 5:7: who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear,\****

--He knows how to pray as the Son of God.

***\*John 11:41-42: And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me."\****

--He, as the Perfect Teacher, knows how to teach **us**. Individual weak and willing disciples. He is so patient, so wise, and so strong as our Teacher.

***\*Murray (With Christ In The School Of Prayer, pg. 10): "Go, my brothers! Go to the Blessed Master and ask Him to enroll your names in that school which He always keeps open for those who long to study the Divine art of prayer and intercession! Yes, let us say to the Master as they did of old, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'"***\*

### Verses 2-4:

***--So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."***

--(2) Jesus begins His teaching by giving them what we call, *The Lord's Prayer*. Because there are a few notable differences here in this passage from **Mt. 6:9-13**, commentators differ on whether they believe this is the same occasion or a repeated teaching.

--My opinion is that this is an original scenario where Jesus is repeating an important teaching for His disciples both new and old. \*We forget He was constantly in new villages, cities, and places, as well as having a constantly growing group of faithful followers. Repetition was necessary.\*

--Jesus teaching on prayer here is to give His followers a model, or pattern prayer, the foundation of which they could build on. Jesus expressly said He never wanted this prayer to become a religious act of meaningless repetition.

**\*Matthew 6:7: And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.\***

--***Our Father in heaven.*** . . . Jesus wants us to begin our prayers as sons and daughters of God Almighty. The Holy Spirit was given to make this a greater reality than even Adam or Eve ever knew (**Rom. 8:15-17; Gal. 4:6-7**).

--The current disciples of Jesus, as well as the Israelite of old, didn't think of God in this way. If anything, the Fatherhood of God was only acknowledged nationally and not individually. There is little to no OT references to God's Fatherhood (**Ps. 103:13; Isa. 63:16**).

--God's Fatherly heart for us was a unique revelation of the Son!

**\*10:22: All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.\***

--***Hallowed be Your name.*** . . . Our Father is heavenly and holy!

--The first impression Christ wants from praying sons and daughters is for them to be more caught up in *who they are coming to* than *what they are coming for*.

--A Father, but a heavenly and holy Father. His name should be recognized as utterly set apart and unique. We stand on holy ground in His presence. \*Growth in this is to be expected, as it would be with our own children.\*

--There is a descending self-realization even in the requests of this prayer: We are children approaching our Father; worshipers before the Holy, citizens of a kingdom, servants of His will, beggars seeking bread, debtors seeking forgiveness, captives seeking deliverance.

--***Your Kingdom Come.*** . . . How we prefer building our own little fiefdoms here! How little we think of the reputation, glory, and promotion of His kingdom—the one that we are called to live worthy of and even suffer for!

--His kingdom will be filled with sons and daughters, perfected body, soul, and spirit from all sin, and it will be eternally all He designed it to be, and everyone will be fed, forgiven, and free.

\*Praying this will help us remember what platform we really stand for!\*

--***Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*** . . . How is our Father's will done in heaven? How about joyfully, continually, immediately, powerfully, etc. \*Do we surrender to His will now? If not, why do we think we are even going to heaven?\*

--**(3) *Give us day by day our daily bread.*** . . . We are to ask God for our practical needs. Our Father hears our prayers and sees our true needs. \*These are usually first in our conversation with God, which is not even something we do in polite conversation with coworkers or friends.\*

--God provides our practical needs day by day, like the manna He gave the Israelites.

**\*Exodus 16:21: *So they gathered it every morning, every man according to his need.*\***

--Isn't that how every good father provides for his household? We should be content with enough, trusting in Him, rather than living without having to ask or trust.

**\*Proverbs 30:8: *Give me neither poverty nor riches—feed me with the food allotted to me;*\***

--**(4) *And forgive us our sins.*** . . . Remember, Jesus is teaching disciples how to pray. He is putting these words into the mouths of sons and daughters. It is good for born again believers to still confess their sins and ask for forgiveness.

--We all need a fresh cleansing of feet and conscience. \*We should be careful not to travel too far theologically either direction here. Some always and only relate to God as a sinner. Others always and only relate to God as a saint. Both thrusts are biblical and contain truth.\*

--***For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.*** . . . We are all debtors to God, but each of us also have others truly debtors to us—they have sinned against us. Real sin, not just perceived sin.

--What of them? We must offer them the forgiveness Christ has offered us and them. The sons and daughters of the Father cannot withhold what the Son of God, Jesus Christ gives on behalf of the Father.

**\*Ephesians 4:32: *And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*\***

--This is a prayer of reorientation. It calibrates our heart to God's. If we struggle with forgiveness, then pray what Jesus teaches you to pray and allow God to give you the manna you need spiritually!

--***And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*** . . . We should pray that God would deliver us from the traps and strategies of the wicked one!

--God does not tempt men to sin (**James 1:13-15**). He does test our faith, but He does not aim at the promotion of sin or to steal, kill, and destroy like the devil.

--God is faithful to provide ways of escape!

**\*1 Corinthians 10:13: *No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*\***

--No son or daughter of God has any excuse to be enslaved by pornography, gambling, drugs, alcohol, temper, adultery, greed, etc.

--We also see Jesus praying within the structure of this prayer in **John 17:15**: *I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.*

**Verses 5-8:**

--*And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'? I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs."*

--**(5-7)** Here is another parable that is unique to Luke's gospel.

--Jesus introduces a scenario they would all understand based off the honor of hospitality in that day. A man has a friend who arrives at his house late at night, after what seems to be a long day of travel. He is not prepared and has nothing to offer.

--Despite the late hour, he goes to his friend's house and asks for three loaves. The friend, probably sleeping near the door in a one room home with his children, does not want to rise and disturb his household. \*Doesn't God know human character so well?!\*

--**(8)** Jesus says the man will eventually get the loaves for the friend, not because of their friendship, but because of the lacking hosts **persistence**.

--The Greek word for **persistence** here could be better translated *shamelessness* or *audacity*. In the extra-biblical literature of the time, it was virtually always used in a negative sense.

--What is the point of this? Jesus is not trying to tell us that God the Father is like a grumpy friend at midnight! The argument is from the lesser to the greater. If human friends interact with one another's needs like this—how much more will God the Father respond to His needy sons and daughters?!

--What do we do when we need three loaves? When there is some provision we do not have? Do we go to our Father?

--God doesn't have to be "disturbed at midnight" because He never slumbers or sleeps (**Ps. 121:3-4**)! Faith and love should drive us to Him, not sheer audacity and shamelessness.

--Why do we wait for answers sometimes? There are a number of reasons:

- 1) What if God just gave us everything right when we asked? What happens to children who are never told no and get everything they want?
- 2) Our Father is holy. His love is expressed in His wisdom. He cannot give what would harm us or be outside of His good plans for us and the world.
- 3) Elements of spiritual warfare are present that we don't understand.

**\*Daniel 10:12-13: Do not fear Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.\***

--Every Father wants their children to come and ask, and keep asking.

--Do you want to learn to pray? Then I would encourage you to begin, or add, a regular practice of prayer somewhere in your life. \*Sunday morning, Sunday night, men's, women's, missions, mom's for school, journal and Saturday before bed, etc.\*

**Verses 9-13:**

**--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. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!**

--(9-10) **So I say to you.** . . . connects us with the reasoning of Jesus' parable and introduces a statement of fact—a maxim. This is a true saying, whether we believe it or not. Jesus' emphatic declaration of the effectiveness of prayer is an invitation to faith! \*We could never know this outside of Him, and we would have no power to force ourselves into His presence without His approval.\*

--Asking, seeking, and knocking give us a progression.

-Asking is simply making requests.

-Seeking is asking with action. We cannot ask God to teach us His Word without any effort to study or remember! \*Forest Fenn's treasure\*

-Knocking brings us back to the audacious perseverance of the parable. Breaking off knocking at a friend's house is giving up hope in that friend. Breaking off praying is like breaking off communication with God and giving up hope in His character.

--Some things we need only ask for. Others we need to ask and then pursue. Some requests we must boldly go to God, even at midnight, and knock until He responds.

--These hopeful truths and the wonderful invitation to prayer are given to **everyone**—every son or daughter of God.

--Will He grant us the things He tells us to ask Him for? Does this type of prayer work? Many of us are already witnesses to this truth. For the rest, there is only one way to find out!

--(11-12) Again, to encourage our faith in His Word, Jesus likens us to sons and daughters approaching our Father for needed things.

--(13) *If you then, being evil.* . . . Do human fathers know how to respond to their children? Well, even the best of human fathers are still evil compared to God! We *are evil by nature*, we don't just act, speak, or think evil at times. Yet, despite our selfish nature, we can still act kindly at times.

--If evil people can still give good things, how will our Heavenly Father, who is holy, truly hallowed in Name, respond to our request?! He can *only* give good gifts (Mt. 7:11).

**\*James 1:17: Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.\***

--God's Fatherhood is available to all His children. We come to Him and pray in the name of Jesus Christ. \*Praise God, I don't have to come in the merit of the name of Mike Focht!\*

--God also has better things to give than bread, fish, or eggs! God the Father will give the gift of the Holy Spirit to those who ask!

--Now, some, for theological reasons, have a problem admitting we should pray for the Holy Spirit as Jesus clearly encourages. They feel like the Spirit came at Pentecost, and we shouldn't ask for more of the Holy Spirit. We have all the Spirit we will get, and this prayer was really just for those believers in that short middle period between Jesus' ministry and Pentecost.

--There are a number of issues with that thought.

1) First and foremost, my theology should never cause me to ignore the clear statements of Scripture. I shouldn't change the Word of God. I should change my theology. Jesus clearly encourages disciples, sons and daughters, to pray and ask their Father for the Holy Spirit.

2) I cannot consign this to just that group of people because then I need to take everything Jesus taught in the whole chapter and do the same. The teaching is a whole unit, and cannot be divided haphazardly. I might as well say we shouldn't use the Lord's prayer, or ask, seek, and knock.

3) Luke, the gospel writer, who was alive after Pentecost, learned his doctrine from Paul the apostle, is inspired by the Holy Spirit Himself, and is writing this for believers *after Pentecost*. If it wasn't applicable to believers after Pentecost, it wouldn't have been recorded by the Holy Spirit after Pentecost.

--The Holy Spirit is the greatest gift our Heavenly Father can give us. \*How many earthly fathers are trying to put their "spirit" into their children playing youth sports?!\*

--Yes, we have the Holy Spirit truly as His sons and daughters, but we also have the Holy Spirit by measure. Christ alone had the Holy Spirit without measure (Jn. 3:34).

--In the New Testament, we constantly see believers being filled with the Holy Spirit, depending on and looking for the work of the Spirit, and particularly in Paul's prayers, asking for more of the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers.

--Nothing truly holy, or truly spiritual, will ever happen in our lives without the Holy Spirit. ***How much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?***

\*Just pray, God, if you have something more for me, I want it!\*