

FINDING THE RIGHT WORDS / Sunday, January 4, 2015

Unifying Topic: A MODEL FOR PRAYER

Lesson Text

I. **A Model For Prayer** (Luke 11:1-4)

II. **Attitude In Prayer** (Luke 11:5-13)

The Main Thought: And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. (Luke 11:2, KJV).

Unifying Principle: People build intimate, trust-filled relationships by having open communication with one another. How do people maintain open communication? Jesus teaches that nurturing a relationship with God requires persistent prayer.

Lesson Aim: To understand the Lord's Prayer as a model for praying various kinds of prayer.

Life Aim: To develop a more disciplined prayer life as a means of developing a growing relationship with God.

HISTORY:

Chapter 10:38-42 Jesus and His disciples entered into a certain village, Bethany, where Martha and Mary lived. Bethany was about two miles from Jerusalem. Martha invited them into her home. Martha lived there with her sister Mary. Mary began to sit at Jesus' feet listening to His Word. But this upset Martha, the older sister. And she confronted Jesus about it because Mary was not helping with the serving. Jesus replies to Martha, *"you are troubled, distracted, and too busy about many things (giving lodging; preparing food; serving, and making others comfortable), but there was only one thing that was needful and Mary was taking advantage of it. And He would not take that away from her."* Martha sought to please Jesus with her service and ministering, but Mary sought to be ministered to by His Word. The lesson to be learned from this true story is that we must choose to do the best things: we must first sit at Jesus' feet and spend time with Him and not be overly concerned about what others do. There is nothing wrong with serving, but there is something wrong about complaining about it!

LESSON:

Luke 11:1-4 A MODEL FOR PRAYER

11:1 And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, **Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.** After a while, as Jesus had prayed, as He always did, in a certain place, He ended His prayer, and one of His disciples asked Him to teach them to pray as John also taught his disciples. It was a common practice for a teacher to instruct his disciples in prayer and John had taught his disciples to pray. Those things stirred one disciple to ask Jesus to teach them to pray.

1. Jesus prayed often, therefore the disciples were aroused to hunger after the same strength for life and service.
2. Jesus prayed as a Son to His Father, and such intimacy stirred the disciples to want the same kind of relationship with God.
3. John had taught his disciples to pray, and Jesus' disciples used this as a basis to ask Jesus to teach them to pray.

11:2 And he said unto them, **When ye pray, say, Our Father...** —Jesus is giving a model prayer; guide, in which we are to base our praying. And we are praying to the Father!

Our Father— It is just so simple to say "*Father*." God is Father, but He's still God, greater than us, holier than us, mightier than us, and Father to many. "*Father*" says that we can approach Him boldly to find grace to help in time of need (Heb.4:16). We are to approach respectfully, in reverence, and fear and awe of God. **We Thank God for two things:** Him being our Father and for Heaven.

1. There is surrender and acknowledgement to the Father.
 - a. When a person genuinely says, "Father", his relationship is acknowledged between he and God and he surrenders to the holiness of The Almighty. Therefore, we are...
 - i. denying our humanism, self-sufficiency, and all other gods.
 - ii. surrendering our self to the Father.
 - iii. acknowledging that He's our Father.

- b. When a person prays "our Father", a person is surrendering his independency and accepting God's family—in the seen and the unseen of heaven and earth; it's more than just you; you belong to a family of believers. The Father is the source and/or head of every member of the family.

A person needs to thank God for being his Father. The Father has created the family of God, and allowing us to be a part of so glorious a family.

1 1:2b...which art in heaven— We are to thank God for Heaven; He is there, and we shall be in heaven with Him.

1. There is the surrender and acknowledgement of Heaven.

Heaven denotes the spiritual world, another dimension that is not on earth. It is His domain where He dwells. Our attention is upward. ¹Just as we have an earthly father, He is our heavenly Father waiting to commune with us. Whatever a good father on earth would do for his children, that's what God in heaven will do for His children. The Heavens reveal the power and glory of God. "*The Atmosphere or Space*" shows His handiwork (Ps.19:1; 150:1).

1 1:2c Hallowed be thy name. Ps.111:9b says "*holy, awe-inspiring name that is*" (TLB.)

2. There is the surrender and acknowledgement of Praise to the holy name of God. Ps.111:9b says "*holy awe-inspiring name that is*" (TLB).

"Hallowed" (*Gr hagiazō*) means to be held in reverence and awe of holiness, so, to hallow His Name is to give the deepest respect to His unique character. It is hallowed, holy, righteous, pure, and sacred; setting His Name apart from all other names! Therefore, praise God for who He is. Do not profane His Name.

A Plea and Request (vv2-4): Four things in particular, but note: these should be prayed for after you have thanked God

1 1:2d Thy kingdom come... It is a request for something to come that is not now existing on earth. It is a request for the rule and reign of God and of His kingdom all over the earth. The believer needs to see the urgency to pray and to pray consistently, "*Thy kingdom come*"; and to live as if God's kingdom had already come. The kingdom represent the full and effective reign of God through the mediatorial office of the Messiah.

1 1:2e...Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven, so in earth. It is a plea and request for His Will. We will come to the understanding that there is one important Will to follow and that is the Will of God on earth because there are four "Wills" at play.

1. **Man's own will** (Rom.12:1-2). **2. Other men's wills** (1Pt.4:2). **3. Satan's will** (Jh.8:44). **And 4. God's will** (Eph.5:15-17).

- Many call God King, but they do not honor Him as a King.
- We must know God's Will if God's Will is to be done, and that requires study and asking for His wisdom and strength to be applied to our lives. **2TIm.2:15** says "*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly, dividing the Word of truth.*" **James 1:5** says "*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth liberally and provideth and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*"
- We are to ask for God's will to be done on earth. The earth is the place where God's Will is so desperately needed; where sin, corruption, suffering, pain, struggling, and death is occurring in lives.
- "*Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*" God's Will is already done in heaven, therefore making earth more like heaven is the goal. To get others to know this, we teach...*teaching all nations...teaching them all things whatsoever I have commanded you (Matt.28:19-20).* This brings about the conformity of the Will of the believer to the Will and purpose of God, thereby resigning our fate to God—your Will be done in me on earth; (**so in earth**); as it is already done in heaven.

PRAYER

Father, thank You for your presence. You are our Father. You've adopted and chosen us as Your children.

We're of the household of faith, and members of Your family. Thank you for heaven; it is Your promise that we shall be where You are (Jh.17:24). I surrender and adore your holiness in my life. There is none but You, and You alone. You are above and before all others. I reverence Your holy Name. Father, may Your rule and

¹ <http://www.keepbelieving.com/sermon/2009-10-04-God-Our-Father/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

reign come through Christ in the hearts and the lives of all men. And a harvest of souls be great! There is no Will but Your Will. Let it be in this earthly realm as it is already done in the spiritual realm. As my life changes, so does many others, in Jesus' name!

II 11:3 Give us day by day our daily bread. It is a plea and request for provisions. People are hungry, starving both physically and spiritually. We all need to be fed both without and within. We need to pray both for our bodies and spirits daily. Bread is the basic necessity of life, the symbol of all that is necessary for survival and for a full life. God cares for man and his welfare: his physical, mental and emotional, and spiritual wellbeing. And God cares for the human body. He is the Provider of the family's needs. Give us this day... our daily bread. This teaches the believer to come to God daily in prayer and trust Him to meet daily needs.

III 11:4 And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. It is a plea and request for forgiveness. "And forgive us our sins" refer to our moral and spiritual debts to God's righteousness. God has given man certain responsibilities; certain things to do and not to do. Every man has failed at some point to some degree in doing what we should. Asking for the forgiveness of our sins is therefore an acknowledgement of the fact that there is no other way to get rid of sin. It is a prayer for grace.

11:4b ...for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. It is a plea and request for forgiveness. It seems like a two way street—a condition for forgiveness. We have to be forgiven, and we have to forgive others. The prayer is asking God...

1. to forgive our debt. When one has failed God in his responsibility, he needs God's forgiveness. And...
2. to help him forgive others. If God can forgive, then we can forgive.

Things a believer must do when sinned against:

1. The believer must understand (Prov.11:12; 15:21; 17:27-28) that there is always a reason why a person sins against a believer. Too often we forget this.
 - a. A person may be mistreated by someone who is close to him.
 - b. A person may be tired, aggravated, and worried.
 - c. A person may be of a shy nature or have a sense of inferiority, and act unfriendly and unconcerned.
 - d. A person may have rumor and gossip and wild imaginations shared with him; he may be lied to and misinformed.
 - e. A person may have a great need for attention and for emotional support.
2. The believer must forbear (*refrain*)(Eph.4:2; Colo.3:13).
3. The believer must forgive (Eph.4:31-32).
4. The believer must not forget, that he is not to harbor the wrong done to him (Phil.3:13).
 - a. An unforgiving spirit causes pain and hurt and tragedy—both to oneself and others.
 - b. We are in trouble when praying the Lord's Prayer if we are angry and do not forgive those who sin against us. We pronounce the very same judgment upon ourselves that we hold for others.
 - c. Forgiveness is conditional. If we want God to forgive us, we must forgive those who have sinned against us. We can expect no better treatment than we give.
 - d. Forgiving others is evidence that God has forgiven our sins, for we are following after Him.

IV 11:4c And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: God does not lead a man to sin; He tempts no man (Jam.1:13). Once we have been forgiven our sin, we must ask God to keep us from sinning again. Therefore, the plea is for God to deliver us from temptation, and from the evil one. Christ is saying:

1. Pray that God will keep you from the awful pull of temptation.
 - a. Because sin causes God great hurt and pain.
 - b. Because sin causes great trouble, guilt, and grief for both oneself and others.
2. Pray that God will deliver you from evil. The Greek says from the "*evil one*", that is, Satan. The request is for God to rescue, preserve, and guard us. He the "*evil one*" is so deceptive and powerful, he is as powerful as a roaring lion getting ready to attack (1Pt.5:8).

- a. The believer must have help in overcoming the evil one.
- b. The evil one attacks by deception and by direct assault for both oneself and others.

Luke 11:5-13 ATTITUDE IN PRAYER

11:5 And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;—²Jesus gives the parable of the friend who came at midnight. In the villages, each family would bake bread every day.

11:6 For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?— A friend arrived toward the end of the night; midnight. The family did not expect this friend to come. But the host needed to feed this guest. In that society,

³ Hallowed be your name	It is the Father who magnifies his Name.
Your kingdom come	It is the Son who establishes His kingdom.
Your will be done	It is the Holy Spirit who executes the Will of God.
Give us today our daily bread	The Father's provision.
Forgive us our debts	The Son's pardon from sin.
Lead us not into temptation	The Holy Spirit's protection from temptation.

people considered that to be an important duty—Hospitality. Considering he could not buy bread at that time of night, the host went to the house of another friend to ask for three small loaves.

11:7 And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. But this other friend was in bed with his children. They all slept in one room. To get up would disturb the children. This friend would not get up even to help his friend. So, if the man who needed the bread would not go away, and continued to ask for bread, what will happen?

11:8 I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. So, in the end, he is truly a friend because he got up and gave him the loaves. However, you can also look at the man's shameless persistence of knocking at the door; his begging, and pestering that the man got up. He was then ready to give more than the man had requested. A man would also bring disgrace upon his village if he refused to entertain a stranger, and the neighbors would have nothing to do with him. Hospitality to strangers is the basic law in the East (Gen.18:1). God is much more than a friend, and will certainly grant our needs much more readily than the man who ignored him and had gone to bed. Persistence in prayer helps us recognize God's work when we see or get what we ask for.

11:9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. This parable was told to reinforce the aspect of prayer. The first step is to ask. Prayer teaches us to communicate and fellowship with God.

1. Prayer is asking and receiving. When you know the Will of God regarding a need, whether it be material or spiritual, you can ask and receive.
2. Prayer is seeking and finding. When you do not know the Will of God regarding a need, whether it be material or spiritual, then you are to seek His Will in prayer concerning this need until you find it. This is the prayer for knowledge of the unrevealed Will of God in a specific need.
3. Prayer is knocking and opening. When you know the Will of God, and yet you find a closed door, you are to knock, and keep on knocking until God opens the door. This is tenacious prayer—mountain moving faith. Knocking prayers preservers until the impossible becomes the possible.

Sometimes we quit praying when God does not answer right away because we're unwilling for God to dig or cut within the depths of our feelings. And sometimes we quit when we've seen part of the prayer answered instead of continuing to have complete healing.

11:10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

² <http://www.easyenglish.info/bible-commentary/luke9-19-im-lbw.htm>

³ <http://www.keepbelieving.com/sermon/2009-10-13-Invitation-to-the-Heart-of-God/>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

The person who is not quite sure about receiving, will only occasionally come, usually only in emergencies. But, for those that keep coming into His presence, He will give what is needed, causing us to draw closer, seeking until we find what is needed; and those that will keep knocking, doors will be opened.

11:11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?— Just as a human father longs for such fellowship and trust, our heavenly Father longs for such fellowship and trust. Therefore, in the illustration of a son asking for bread, his father would not give him a stone or a fish or a serpent.

11:12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?— If by any chance the son would ask for an egg, the father would not give him a scorpion. These three simple illustrations had to do with a father and son' close relationship. That's what prayer is, a close relationship of the Father and His child. The point is: God is most willing to give just as a human father would.

11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?— This illustration contrasts the heart of an evil man and the heart of God, the Father who is perfectly good. If an evil man gives, it is impossible that God, who is good, would not give. He gives us more than what we ask. The promise of the Holy Spirit is our gift from God. As He dwells within our hearts, every good thing is assured to us. Having His Spirit, and we have His presence! He gives because the Spirit, our Comforter, knows how to accompany us in pray; He knows how to look after and care for us; He knows how to direct and guide us, and He knows how to assure and comfort us. To them that ask shall receive by His Spirit!

SUMMARY:

⁴These verses contain what is commonly called the "Lord's Prayer," also found in Matthew 6:9-13. Notice that Jesus praised God first, and then He made His requests. Praising God first puts us in the right frame of mind to tell Him about our needs. It is a model prayer to show us how to pray, and not something to just be repeated in vain repetition. In it we are to:

1. Recognize God for who He is and glorify His Name—*Our Father; Hallowed*. (11:2).
2. Pray for His program to be accomplished—*Thy Kingdom come*. It is not telling God what we want, but telling God to use us to accomplish what He wants (11:2).
3. Pray that His will be accomplished—*Thy Will on earth as it is in heaven*. It is not to get man's Will done in heaven, but to get God's Will done on earth (11:2).
4. Ask for daily food—*Give us this day...our daily bread* (11:3).
5. Ask for forgiveness of sin—*Forgive us our sins as we forgive others* (11:4).
6. Ask for deliverance from sin and evil—*Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil* (11:4). Actually, it's that we be delivered from situations that would cause us to sin

Following the prayer, Jesus gives a parable which illustrates the fact that God will answer the prayer of those who are His children (11:5-8). God is more than a friend, and will certainly grant our requests much more readily than the man who had gone to bed. A second brief parable shows that the Father will not only respond, but He will give us what is good for us and not what will harm us (11:9-12). He goes on to state that this good gift is the Holy Spirit, which is the most important gift we could have (11:13).

⁴ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/jesus-teaching-on-prayer/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>