

Thy Will Be Done – Luke 11:1-13

Most of us are familiar with the model prayer and know its contents contain Jesus' answer to the disciples when one of them asked, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1) However, I don't want to give you another message which teaches you the basic principles of what one's prayer life should look like, or be modeled after. Instead, I want to show you something which may help you find some peace in your life and in your daily walk in this sin-filled world. But before we get in deeper, let's read **Luke 11:1-4**.

I know many of you have read this passage before but usually recite its synoptic counterpart from Matthew 6 when Jesus is delivering the Sermon on the Mount. I also know, because you guys are smart, that you'll notice a subtle difference between the two recorded accounts. Let's have a look at **Matthew 6:7-13** and see if you notice what I'm referring to?

Did you catch the differences between the two? Jesus, in the more formal setting of delivering a sermon as opposed to answering a direct question as seen in Luke gives us a more thorough model of which He spoke of in His answer to the disciple's. He includes, "*your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven*", and "*but deliver us from evil.*" I want you to see something that I noticed when studying these two passages. In Matthew we get a more thorough and formal teaching from Jesus, but in Luke we get the same instruction, with Jesus following it up with a more thorough explanation of its meaning. Instead of stating that in our prayers we should ask for God's will to be done, Jesus chooses to describe what that looks like in practice.

And, true to His ways, Jesus uses a parable to teach them, and us, about the importance of continually seeking the Father's will in every situation. Let me show you what I mean. **Read Luke 11:5-10**. Before I expound, let me say this... this prayer is intended for the believer and not the lost. There is a different prayer for those who do not yet know Jesus as their Savior. For instance, the simple prayer mumbled by the tax collector in the parable concerning the boisterous pharisee and the broken tax collector found in Luke 18. The tax collector, thumping on his chest, simply said to God, "be merciful to me, a sinner!" That's all folks. If you're here this morning and you're lost. Perhaps you're searching for something to fill the emptiness, then all it takes is a simple prayer from a humble heart, asking God to forgive you of your sins and to extend His mercy to you through the blood of Jesus Christ. I'll simply say this... do not tarry because there will be a day where Jesus will no longer tarry himself.

Now, back to where we left off. Let me explain what is happening in this story.

Vs. 5 – Neighbors, one turned in for the night and comfortable. The other, panicking because he has nothing to offer the late arriving guest.

It was common to travel at night to avoid the heat of the day. Bread was made daily so it would not get stale in the desert heat. In their day, the house door would be open in the morning and remain open all day. If the door was shut, it was like our modern “do not disturb” sign we place on the doorknob of our hotel room. A poorer house consisted of one room with one little window. In one corner a stove burned all night with the family huddled around it sleeping on mats to keep warm. On top of that, most families brought their animals and livestock into the house at night. For this man to get up, it would wake up both the family and the animals. If you have dogs, you know what this is like.

Vs. 6 – The desperate neighbor explaining the reason for knocking on the other neighbor’s door at such a late hour.

Vs. 7 – Leave me alone. Go away before you wake my kids.

Vs. 8 – This verse speaks to the desperation of the neighbor. The word impudence conveys the idea of urgency, persistence, and a relentlessness that will not be satisfied with being shushed away. He kept on asking; he kept on seeking; he kept on knocking. Because of the boldness and shamelessness of the one asking, the neighbor gives him what he needs. The true word used here translates to audacious. Think about the situation. It is not acceptable to knock on the neighbor’s door when it is shut; it is the middle of the night, the whole house will wake up, yet the guy shamelessly and boldly knocks. Here’s the point... **We need to approach the throne of grace confidently and without shame.** **Hebrews 4:16** says, “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Can I ask you this today? When’s the last time you sought after God in this manner? When’s the last time you allowed your desperation to humble you enough to come, crying out to the Father, in the middle of the night, if need be, relentlessly pursuing Him, seeking what He has in store for you?

Vs. 9-10 - Look what happens in the next few verses. I think this may be where most preachers get the idea that a sermon must have three points or it’s just not worthy of being called a sermon. Jesus gives three commands: keep asking and you will receive, keep seeking and you will find, keep knocking, and the door will be opened. The first, ask, is an invitation to pray, especially when we are lacking something, most of the time, it’s a resource of some sort. James tells us that we do not have it because we do not ask; we must ask if we want to receive. His point is that since this man asked his reluctant neighbor and received you can be sure that when you ask God, who is generous and gracious and loving, you will receive. The second command, seek, is an invitation to seek God and his will, as we saw from Matthew 6:10. The thought is that when you seek God, you will find him, and he will pour out his blessing on you in accordance with His plan and purpose for your life. Seek and do not give up. He will respond. The third command,

knock, is an invitation for permission to enter God's presence. Have you ever asked God if you could sit with Him for a while? Sometimes, the answer is just sit and enjoy His presence. All three of these words are provided as present active commands from Jesus. This means we are to continue asking, continue seeking, and continue knocking.

Read Vs. 11-13 There are two things which occur in the final verse from our passage. Jesus also invites us to pray expectantly. God, who is loving and merciful and gracious, only gives good gifts. Jesus is challenging us to be believers who believe. When's the last time you prayed with expectation, knowing that God was going to answer your cry? Jesus wants us to pray shamelessly, persistently, and expectantly. Don't just pray once and give up or don't just pray out of obligation and be passive about it. Stop sitting around hoping that God heard you. I promise He will hear you. Isaiah 65:24 says, *"Before they call, I will answer; while they are yet speaking, I will hear."* Perhaps, even though He already knows your desire, He's waiting on you to ask in the manner that we have seen today.

I love how Jesus closes this moment. *"how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"*

My heart's desire is for us to be a people who truly experience the greatness of God's Word and the fullness of the Spirit's power. I pray we become a people who expect God to answer prayer; who expects God to move when we pray; that we will be bold and audacious in our prayers.

I am praying that God's Spirit transforms our hearts in such a way that we have more compassion and concern for the lost people in our community. and the boldness to step out believing God will meet us there in the moment when we speak. I envision us praying that God will provide Kingdom opportunities for us and that we will then step out believing that He will back us up. Here's the thing... We can pray and ask, knowing that he hears and will answer, but when He answers, we must be prepared to take advantage of the opportunities He sets before us. Boldness does not just fall into our laps. Boldness comes when we trust God, simply because He is God. I am also praying that God's Spirit will move in Mountain Rest so that we see hearts softened and people ready and responsive to the gospel. Remember, our Gospel primer? We must live the Gospel, not just know it!

I am praying God's Spirit will move more powerfully in drawing us towards each other. I am praying that He will continue unifying us and shaping us into the Jesus loving community that we are supposed to be. I want to see us hungering for the Spirit's power in righteousness and holiness. I want us to be sensitive to our sin and ask God to change those things that have hindered us for so long. I want us to see people overcome long standing struggles. God moves in response to prayer. Jesus taught this. Luke knew this. And we must trust this!