

# PARENTING BY THE BOOK

## “LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY”

### 1. REVIEW

A. **Luke 11:1-4 (NASB77)** And it came about that while **He 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: ' **(1) Father, (2) hallowed be Thy name. (3) Thy kingdom come. (4) 'Give us each day our daily bread. 'And (5) forgive us our sins, For (6) we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And (7) lead us not into temptation.'"**

1. **1-3 ARE OUR ORIENTATION.**

2. **4-7 ARE PETITIONS.**

3. **NOTICE THE ORDER: ORIENTATION BEFORE PETITION.**

B. **FACT: THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT IN OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH THAN PRAYER.**

C. **THE DISCIPLES REALIZED THAT IF THEY WERE GOING TO FOLLOW JESUS AND DO WHAT GOD WAS GOING TO ASK THEM TO DO, THEY WERE GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE PRAYER A SUPREME PRIORITY.**

1. **THEY GOT THE MESSAGE, BECAUSE BY ACTS 6 THEY REALIZED THE NECESSITY OF THEM SPENDING TIME WITH GOD IN PRAYER.**

a. **Acts 6:2-4 (NASB)** And the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. "But select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. "**But we will devote ourselves to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.**"

2. **QUESTION: HOW MANY THINGS DO WE SAY “NO” TO IN ORDER TO PRAY??**

D. **JESUS RESPONDS TO THE REQUEST, “LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY”, IN TWO PARTS:**

1. **FIRST, A MODEL OF A PRAYER TO PRAY. (LUKE 11:1-4)**

2. **SECOND, OUR PERSPECTIVES WHILE PRAYING. (LUKE 11:5-13)**

a. **PRAY LIKE OUR PRAYERS MATTER.**

b. **TRUST THAT GOD IS A GOOD FATHER.**

2. **THE FIRST PERSPECTIVE: PRAY LIKE OUR PRAYERS MATTER**

**PARENTING BY THE BOOK**  
**“LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY”**

- A. **Luke 11:5-13 (NASB)** And He said to them, "Suppose one of you shall have a friend, and shall go to him at midnight, and say 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 shall answer and say, '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. "And I say to you, ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. "For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it shall be opened. "Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? "Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? " If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"
- B. THIS **PERSPECTIVE** (**PRAYING LIKE OUR PRAYERS MATTER**) IS **VITAL** BECAUSE... **WITHOUT IT WE PROBABLY WILL NOT PERSEVERE IN PRAYER.**
- C. "Suppose one of you shall have a friend, and shall go to him at midnight, and say 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 shall answer and say, '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*.'
1. **NOTE:** IN JESUS' TIME **HOSPITALITY** WAS **NOT** A **COURTESY**... IT WAS AN **OBLIGATION.**
- D. "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.
1. A BETTER TRANSLATION OF "**PERSISTENCE**" IS, "because of his **SHAMELESS AUDACITY** he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

**PARENTING BY THE BOOK**  
**“LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY”**

2. THE IDEA HERE IS THAT THIS MAN IS SO **DESPERATE** THAT EVEN THOUGH HIS FRIEND 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*.”
- E. BECAUSE OF HIS “**SHAMELESS AUDACITY**” THE MAN IN BED WILL, “get up and give him as much as he needs.”
- F. JESUS ADDS, “And I say to you, **ask**, and it shall be given to you; **seek**, and you shall find; **knock**, and it shall be opened to you. “For everyone who **asks**, **receives**; and he who **seeks**, **finds**; and to him who **knocks**, it shall be opened.
1. **ASK, SEEK, AND KNOCK ARE VERBS IN THE PRESENT PROGRESSIVE TENSE.**
- a. WHICH **MEANS** THAT THEY **IMPLY CONTINUOUS ACTION**.
- b. **KEEP ASKING, KEEP SEEKING, AND KEEP KNOCKING.**
- 1) **THAT IS WHAT OUR PERSPECTIVE SHOULD BE AS WE PRAY!!**
- c. **NOTE: “A S K” IS AN ACROSTIC WORD.**
- 1) A = **ASK**
- 2) S = **SEEK**
- 3) K = **KNOCK**
- G. THIS **PARABLE IS NOT** TO TELL US **WHAT GOD IS LIKE** (A GRUMPY, SLEEPY MAN IN BED)... **BUT, WHAT WE SHOULD BE LIKE AS WE PRAY.**
1. IN OTHER WORDS, IT’S **NOT ABOUT HOW GOD RESPONDS TO PRAYER, BUT... HOW WE SHOULD APPROACH GOD IN PRAYER.**
- a. **OUR PERSPECTIVE SHOULD BE TO KEEP ASKING, KEEP SEEKING, AND KEEP KNOCKING.**
3. THEN JESUS TELLS THE **DISCIPLES AND US WHY CONTINUOUS ASKING, SEEKING, AND KNOCKING SHOULD BE OUR PERSPECTIVE WHEN WE PRAY...**

**PARENTING BY THE BOOK**  
**“LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY”**

- A. "And I say to you, ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. "For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it shall be opened.
- B. **PROBLEM:** MOST CHRISTIANS DO NOT BELIEVE WHAT JESUS SAID IN THIS SCRIPTURE, BECAUSE... IF WE DID, WE WOULD PRAY A LOT MORE THAN WE DO!
- C. MANY OF YOU ARE THINKING:
1. "I WISH PRAYER WAS THAT EASY!"
  2. OR, "I USED TO BELIEVE PRAYER WORKED LIKE THAT".
  3. OR, "SOMETHING BAD HAPPENED IN MY LIFE AND I ASKED, I SAUGHT, AND I KNOCKED... BUT, I DID NOT GET MY ANSWER".
- D. **QUESTION:** WHAT DO WE DO WITH AND HOW DO WE HANDLE "NO" OR "LATER" TO OUR PRAYERS?
1. I WANT TO POINT OUT TWO THINGS HERE:
    - a. JESUS DID NOT SAY WHEN WE WILL RECEIVE.
      - 1) GOD IS NOT AN "ON DEMAND GOD".
    - b. SOMETIMES HIS ANSWER IS "NO".
      - 1) GOD ALWAYS ANSWERS OUR PRAYERS: YES, NO, LATER.
  4. Luke 11:11-13 (NASB) "Now suppose one of you **fathers** is asked by his **son** for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? "Or *if* he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more** shall *your heavenly Father* give the Holy Spirit to those who **ask Him**?"
- A. IN THIS PASSAGE, JESUS IS USING A STYLE OF RABINIC TEACHING CALLED "HOW MUCH MORE".
1. HE IS SPEAKING IN EXAGGERATED LANGUAGE TO MAKE A POINT.

**PARENTING BY THE BOOK**  
**“LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY”**

- a. IF \_\_\_\_\_ IS TRUE... THEN HOW MUCH MORE IS \_\_\_\_\_ TRUE?
  - b. AND HIS POINT IS THAT THE WAY BROKEN HUMAN FATHERS RESPOND TO THEIR CHILDREN IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE WAY OUR HEAVENLY FATHER LOVINGLY RESPONDS TO US.
- B. DO NOT MISS THIS:
- 1. WHEN JESUS DESCRIBES OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IN PRAYER, HE DOES NOT DESCRIBE:
    - a. A KING AND HIS SUBJECTS.
    - b. OR, A MASTER AND HIS SLAVE.
    - c. BUT... A FATHER AND HIS CHILDREN!
    - d. DISCUSS: WHY?
- C. QUESTION: WHY DOES JESUS SAY THAT GOD WILL SEND THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THOSE WHO ASK HIM?
- 1. THAT SEEMS RATHER ODD IF THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU'RE ASKING FOR.
  - 2. NOTE: WHEN JESUS GAVE THIS TEACHING THE HOLY SPIRIT DID NOT INDWELL/LIVE IN BELIEVERS.
    - a. HE DID COME ON PROPHETS, ETC. IN O.T. TIMES...
      - 1) BUT IT WAS ALWAYS TEMPORARY.
    - b. THEREFORE... IF GOD WERE TO GIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT PERMANENTLY, THAT WOULD BE THE GREATEST GIFT GOD COULD EVER GIVE!
      - 1) John 14:25-26 (NASB) “These things I have spoken to you, while abiding with you. "But the Helper, **the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.
5. SUMMARY: TWO VITAL PERSPECTIVES JESUS WANTS US TO LEARN FROM THIS TEACHING ABOUT PRAYER:

**PARENTING BY THE BOOK**  
**“LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY”**

- A. REMEMBER, IN LUKE 11: 1-13, WHEN THE DISCIPLES SAY, “LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY” ... HE GIVES A TWO PART ANSWER:
1. A MODEL FOR PRAYER (Luke 11:1-4).
  2. A PERSPECTIVE WHILE PRAYING (Luke 11: 5-13).
- B. OUR FIRST PERSPECTIVE: PRAY LIKE OUR PRAYERS MATTER.
- C. OUR SECOND PERSPECTIVE: TRUST THAT GOD IS A GOOD FATHER.