

Jesus: Lord of Our Prayers
Series: Luke
March 4, 2018 Pastor Bill Bump

In our study of the Gospel of Luke, we've read about the fact that prayer was an essential part of Jesus' life.

Luke 3:21-22 ²¹ *One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. As he was praying, the heavens opened,* ²² *and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy."*

Luke 5:16 *But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.*

Luke 6:12 *One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night.*

The disciples saw a correlation between Jesus' prayers and His miraculous power, and they wanted to learn to pray like Him.

Jesus responded to their request by sharing with them a pattern for prayer.

Luke 11:1-4 ¹ *Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."*

² *Jesus said, "This is how you should pray: "Father, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. ³ Give us each day the food we need, ⁴ and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation."*

Jesus began by instructing us to address God directly in our prayers.

Prayer is a time to praise God for His holiness and His reverence.

Secondly, we are to pray for God's rule in our life.

We should desire that heaven come to earth and impact our life.

Thirdly, we are to pray for our daily needs.

Jesus, obviously, intends for prayer to be a daily experience

Fourth, we are to pray for forgiveness and the strength to forgive others.

Our repentance and our forgiveness are linked with the forgiving attitude we display toward others.

Fifth, we are to pray that we overcome temptation.

Then, Jesus told a story about prayer to teach us to pray boldly.

Luke 11:5-13 ⁵ Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: "Suppose you went to a friend's house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, ⁶ 'A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.' ⁷ And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, 'Don't bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can't help you.' ⁸ But I tell you this—though he won't do it for friendship's sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence.

⁹ "And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

¹¹ "You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? ¹² Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! ¹³ So if you sinful people 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."

Our prayers often have a sense of need. Jesus' story began with a dire, pressing need.

We are to pray with boldness and pray expectantly.

We are to pray with a spirit of anticipation.

In verses 9 and 10, the Greek is in the aorist tense, which means "keep on." We are to keep in constant communication with God concerning our needs.

God will answer the prayer according to His will. When we pray, we don't see the future, so we pray, "God, Your will be done."

Verses 11-13 tell us that, when we pray, we should believe God is going to give us what is best for us and for the situation.

Conclusion

The important lesson that Jesus taught in this passage is that we are to ask in faith, believing that God is going to do what is best.

James 1:6-8 ⁶ But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.