

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.

READ James 1:6-8 Mark what stands out to you.

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.

REFLECT Write your observations & thoughts from James 1:6-8. _____

RESPOND (Application for this week) **WHAT** were the most significant scriptures for you this week? _____

WHY are those scriptures *significant to you* at this time in your life?

HOW can you practically apply what God spoke to you about this week?

[Try to respond in terms of specific action steps, specific people, long-term plan.]

WHAT will be the time frame for your application?

(1) Start Date _____ (2) *Progress* Check Date(s) _____ (3) Finish Date _____

WHO I can ask to hold me accountable for my application: _____

Sermon-Based Devotional

Lawrence Free Methodist Church
(Based on a Sermon by Pastor Bill Bump on March 4, 2018)

Series: The Gospel of LUKE

*Note – There is an OVERVIEW of Luke available on the kiosk where you pick up this Devotional. You may find it helpful in your study and processing of the sermon and this Sermon-Based Devotional.

JESUS: LORD OF OUR PRAYERS

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

READ Luke 3:21-22 Mark what stands out to you.

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, & 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.

READ Luke 11:1-4 Mark what stands out to you.

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. 'Give us each day the food we need, 'and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation.'*"

REFLECT Write your thoughts from what you marked in the above passages.

1.E. – Luke records a number of instances of Jesus spending time in prayer. Prayer seemed to be a regular part of Jesus' life – and lifestyle. And, when His disciples asked Him to "teach them to pray" – without hesitation – Jesus knew exactly what to teach them. To me, that speaks volumes of Jesus' convictions and experience in conversing with God. (Now write your thoughts.)

Note: A tremendous book on learning about prayer is: **PRAYER – CONVERSING WITH GOD**, by Rosalind Rinker. Zondervan Publishing House / ISBN 0-310-32171-9

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.

WHAT are some areas you could ask the Lord to begin to transform in your life?

Thirdly, we are to pray for our daily needs.

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

WHAT are some daily needs you can ask & trust the Lord to meet in your life?

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.

WHAT are some things you need to ask forgiveness for?

WHO are some people you need to ask forgiveness from – and why?

WHO are some people you need to forgive – and why?

Fifth, we are to pray that we overcome temptation.

WHAT are some things you could ask the Lord to help you with in this area?

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

READ Luke 11:5-13 **Mark everything that stands out to you.**

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."

REFLECT Write your thoughts from what you marked in the above passage.

I.E. – I need to remember that Jesus is teaching here and He is wanting to make a point to those who are listening and who are teachable. To me, one thing I can learn from Jesus here is that God is not bothered by me being persistent in asking Him to do things. But I also need to remember the passage: ¹⁴ "And this is the confidence (the assurance, the privilege of boldness) which we have in Him: [we are sure] that if we ask anything (make any request) according to His will (in agreement with His own plan), He listens to and hears us. ¹⁵ And if (since) we [positively] know that He listens to us in whatever we ask, we also know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that we have [granted as our present possessions] the requests made of Him." (1 John 5:14, 15, The Amplified Bible) .—If I am walking with the Lord, then my prayer life should be in alignment with His will and the word. (Now write your thoughts.)

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.