

A Tale of Two Prayers **Luke 11:1-8**

Vs. 1 – “Now Jesus was praying...” Does that surprise anyone?

We know that Jesus often prayed, but why?

If Jesus felt the need to pray, how can we miss the necessity of it in our lives?

But it's not just that we pray, how we pray matters too! H.C. # 117

Here in Luke 11, the disciples asked Jesus how to pray and Jesus responds with a version of the well-known, “Lord’s Prayer (Disciples Prayer)!”

- **“Father”** – Prayer is for believers, for only people of faith can call Him Father
- **“hallowed be your name”** – Prayer addresses God with a right posture.
- **“Your kingdom come”** – Prayer seeks God’s plan and purposes above all!
- **“Give us each day our daily bread...”** – In prayer one should distinguish between wants & needs and ask God for only what is necessary!
- **“forgive us our sins”** – Prayer should always address our most important need
- **“for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us...”** – Prayer should always be accompanied by the proper action!
- **“And lead us not into temptation.”** – In prayer we are to ask God for help to avoid falling into sin and to keep from being led astray!

Jesus gave this great blueprint for prayer, but he also warns them about making this prayer something it was not intended to be! **Matthew 6:5-9a**

If this prayer, or any prayer, becomes nothing more than a repetition of words devoid of meaning, **then that is exactly what it will be - meaningless!**

If this prayer, or any prayer, becomes nothing more than a rigid formula to follow, then we have missed the reason for prayer in the first place!

If this prayer, or any prayer, is for the purpose of self-promotion with God and/or others, then we need to repent of our prayer life & start over!

Prayer is about us and God! We are to approach Him as we truly are and as He truly is! **This blueprint can be helpful, but our prayers must be authentic.**

Sometimes our prayers are anything but formal, they don’t follow this formula, but those prayers are heard by God too. That’s why Jesus tells this parable!

The “Lord’s Prayer” in Luke 11, is followed up by a story that shows a very different way to pray, but a prayer that is equally powerful & heard by God.

- **“Friend”** – God is God, but addressing Him too formally can sometimes distort our understanding of the intimacy He wants us to have with Him!

- The man in the story knows it’s midnight & that his friend is asleep, but still he pounds on the door and calls out **“lend me three loaves...”** That isn’t a very **“hallowed”** approach, but the time for formalities was gone.

“for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, & I have nothing set before him” – My “daily bread” was not enough, so I’m pleading with you for yours! This does not sound like the blueprint prayer Jesus gave!

- In Jesus’ prayer the focus was on asking for God’s Kingdom & will to be done, yet in this story it is the man making the request/demand whose will is being sought out! He is definitely making his request known!

This man shamelessly pounds on the door and will not take no for an answer! He had failed to do what was expected of him in Eastern hospitality, and no matter what this friend, his family, or the rest of the neighborhood thought about him, he was going to get that bread.

Sometimes prayer exposes things about us we would not want anyone else to know, & **sometimes prayer is a reckless abandonment of our pride.**

- **“Lead us not into temptation”** is a prayer asking God to help us get it right, but sometimes we don’t care that we get it right, we simply need God’s help in that moment!
- **“Because of his impudence he will rise & give him whatever he needs!”** God doesn’t need to be addressed properly to respond to the prayers of His people! His grace and mercy towards us is beyond compare!

Jesus is telling us through both His example prayer & this story, that prayer is important. **But every prayer can look a little different.** What is essential is that we keep asking, seeking, searching, & knocking on heaven’s door.

We have a God who knows our hearts, who knows our needs, who loves us, and who knows how to give good gifts to His children when they ask! Let us be a people of prayer, trusting that God is listening & will respond according to His goodness, His grace, and His love!

A Tale of Two Prayers Luke 11:1-8

Vs. 1 – “Now Jesus was praying...” Does that surprise anyone?

We know that Jesus often prayed, but _____?

If Jesus felt the need to pray, how can we miss the necessity of it in our lives?

But it's not just that we pray, _____ we pray matters too! H.C. # 117

Here in Luke 11, the disciples asked Jesus how to pray and Jesus responds with a version of the well-known, “Lord’s Prayer (Disciples Prayer)!”

- **“Father”** – Prayer is for believers, for only people of faith can call Him Father
- **“hallowed be your name”** – Prayer addresses God with a right _____.
- **“Your kingdom come”** – Prayer seeks God’s plan and purposes above all!
- **“Give us each day our daily bread...”** – In prayer one should distinguish between wants & needs and ask God for only what is _____!
- **“forgive us our sins”** – Prayer should always address our most important need
- **“for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us...”** – Prayer should always be accompanied by the proper _____!
- **“And lead us not into temptation.”** – In prayer we are to ask God for help to avoid falling into sin and to keep from being led astray!

Jesus gave this great blueprint for prayer, but he also warns them about making this prayer something it was not intended to be! **Matthew 6:5-9a**

If this prayer, or any prayer, becomes nothing more than a repetition of words devoid of meaning, then that is exactly what it will be - _____!

If this prayer, or any prayer, becomes nothing more than a rigid formula to follow, then we have missed the reason for prayer in the first place!

If this prayer, or any prayer, is for the purpose of _____ with God and/or others, then we need to repent of our prayer life & start over!

Prayer is about us and God! We are to approach Him as we truly are and as He truly is! This blueprint can be helpful, but our prayers must be _____

Sometimes our prayers are anything but formal, they don’t follow this formula, but those prayers are heard by God too. That’s why Jesus tells this parable!

The “Lord’s Prayer” in Luke 11, is followed up by a story that shows a very different way to pray, but a prayer that is equally powerful & heard by God.

- **“_____”** – God is God, but addressing Him too formally can sometimes distort our understanding of the intimacy He wants us to have with Him!
- The man in the story knows it’s midnight & that his friend is asleep, but still he pounds on the door and calls out **“lend me three loaves...”** That isn’t a very “_____” approach, but the time for formalities was gone.

“for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, & I have nothing set before him” – My “daily bread” was not enough, so I’m pleading with you for yours! This does not sound like the blueprint prayer Jesus gave!

- In Jesus’ prayer the focus was on asking for God’s Kingdom & will to be done, yet in this story it is the man making the request/demand whose will is being sought out! He is definitely making his request known!

This man _____ pounds on the door and will not take no for an answer! He had failed to do what was expected of him in Eastern hospitality, and no matter what this friend, his family, or the rest of the neighborhood thought about him, he was going to get that bread.

Sometimes prayer exposes things about us we would not want anyone else to know, & sometimes prayer is a reckless abandonment of our _____

- **“Lead us not into temptation”** is a prayer asking God to help us get it right, but sometimes we don’t care that we get it right, we simply need God’s help in that moment!
- **“Because of his _____ he will rise & give him whatever he needs!”** God doesn’t need to be addressed properly to respond to the prayers of His people! His grace and mercy towards us is beyond compare!

Jesus is telling us through both His example prayer & this story, that prayer is important. But every prayer can look a little _____. What is essential is that we keep asking, seeking, searching, & knocking on heaven’s door.

We have a God who knows our hearts, who knows our needs, who loves us, and who knows how to give good gifts to His children when they ask! Let us be a people of prayer, trusting that God is listening & will respond according to His goodness, His grace, and His love!