

May 19, 2024

Jesus Taught us about Prayer!

Luke 11:1-13

In immediate response to the disciples' inquiry, Jesus gave them the instruction found in Luke 11:1-13. However, as you read through the New Testament you will find that He taught them much more about prayer. I won't be able in this lesson to give much attention to all that Jesus taught about prayer. I simply want to talk about some of the things He taught about prayer, especially those things related to unselfishness in prayer.

The disciples' request in verse one, for instruction in prayer reveal that what they had come to be familiar with regarding prayer was not what God wanted. This opening section of chapter 11 focuses on the importance of prayer. Verses 1-4 contain the Lord's instruction on prayer.

I. Jesus pointed out that we need to get alone with God to pray for our need that we might serve God and others better (Matthew 6:6; 14:22-23)

Was it selfish for Jesus to get away from the multitude and pray alone? No! He needed to recover from spiritual exhaustion, gain new insight into God's plans, and gain renewed physical and spiritual strength for the task ahead. Without times like these, we become shallow in our service, superficial in our influence, and ultimately beaten down, discouraged and frustrated.

II. Jesus encouraged prayers for the needs of others (Luke 11:5-8) is an example of important prayers.

The one who asked, asked not that his needs be met, but that his friend's needs be met. The need of another had made him feel the poverty of his own life. Jesus taught that even when we pray solitarily, we pray "our" Father, "our" daily bread, "our" debtors. We must see ourselves not simply as a separate entity, but as an inseparable element in human life. We have common needs so much so that when we pray, we say, "our."

III. Jesus taught us to pray for the Kingdom of God.

“Thy Kingdom come.” Surely we need to intercede daily for the whole lost world. We need to pray for those involved in mission, for pastors, for the strength of churches and for the power of God and the teachings of the Bible to be let loose through those who lead.

IV. Jesus indicated that there are times when we should pray together for others (Matthew 18:18-19).

We often quote the reference “two or three” as a contrast between the few and the many, while Jesus was contrasting solitary praying to group praying. He was emphasizing that He is especially present in a praying group. Praying groups should be established not only in churches but in houses, schools, businesses, offices, and everywhere people are assembled.

V. Jesus set the example in praying:

- For children (Matthew 19:13)
- For the sick (Mark 7:34)
- For His disciples (Luke 22:31-32)
- For His enemies (Luke 23:34)
- For laborers in the harvest (Luke 10:2)
- For all His followers unto the end of time (John 17:20)