

YEAR OF PRAYER: Teach Me How

Pastor Brandon Zieske

Text: Luke 11:1-13

REMINDER: Jesus is passionate about prayer and about removing the obstacles between us and God. Mark 11:15-19

There's a right way to pray and there's a wrong way to pray. Luke 11:1; Mt. 6:1-18; James 4:3

BIG IDEA: IT'S ALL ABOUT THE APPROACH.

THE FRAMEWORK: Luke 11:2-4

We must learn to see God as a Good Father.

The heart of prayer flows from a child-like dependence.

THE APPROACH: Luke 11:5-10, Hebrews 4:16

Prayer takes advantage of who God is.

Bold and persistent prayer moves God.

Bold and persistent prayer delights God.

Bold and persistent prayer changes us.

Bold and persistent prayer is effective.

THE ENCOURAGEMENT: Luke 11:11-14

Our Father in heaven will always give His very best.

Food for Thought for the week of January 17, 2016

(Questions and Scriptures for further study and discussion)

Text: Luke 11:1-13

1. How did this week's message impact you? What challenged you? What questions did it raise? What confused you?
2. In this account, one disciple asked Jesus to teach the disciples to pray. What is it in us, as human beings, that stirs the urge to pray?
3. Since Jesus' central purpose on earth was to open the way for people to come into a right relationship with God, how does "the Lord's prayer" address this? In this model prayer, who or what is the focal point?
4. As we pray "hallowed be thy name", how may our daily actions confirm what is meant? How might our prayer that God's name be kept holy affect our speaking, listening, and watching?
5. In what ways is it easy to let the framework with which Jesus taught his disciples to pray, turn into religious ritual? How is it that religious ritual can become a comfortable habit? Read Matthew 6:5-8.
6. Jesus' instruction to continue asking, seeking, and knocking implies ongoing communication with God. Have you thought of praying persistently as an added opportunity to enjoy God's company? Discuss.
7. When an answer to your prayer is slow in becoming evident, what is your typical response? Can you describe an answered prayer that came after waiting awhile? Did it become apparent that certain conditions needed to be met before the answer?

For further study: Looking at some figures in the Bible who communicated powerfully with God, what characteristics can each model for us? Abraham - Genesis 18:23-32; Moses - Exodus 33:12-13; Samuel - 1 Samuel 12:19-23; David - Psalm 51:1-17; Daniel - Daniel 6:1-10; Elijah - James 5:16b-18; Jabez - 1 Chronicles 4:9-10; Paul - Romans 8:26-27; Jesus - Matthew 14:23

Give some thought and observation as to how one might grow in learning how to pray. For example, you could pray with one other person, in a small group, at monthly worship and prayer nights, or by following the online prayer calendar.

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