

## Jesus Teaches about Prayer

Luke 11:1-26

### Teaching How to Pray: Pattern and Persistence

11 Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, *that* one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."<sup>2</sup> So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven.<sup>3</sup> Give us day by day our daily bread.<sup>4</sup> And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

<sup>5</sup> And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves;<sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him';<sup>7</sup> and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'?<sup>8</sup> I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.<sup>9</sup> "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."<sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.<sup>11</sup> If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if *he asks* for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish?<sup>12</sup> Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?<sup>13</sup> If you then, being evil, 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!"

### Jesus in League with Satan or Bringing about His Defeat

<sup>14</sup> And He was casting out a demon, and it was mute. So it was, when the demon had gone out, that the mute spoke; and the multitudes marveled.<sup>15</sup> But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."<sup>16</sup> Others, testing *Him*, sought from Him a sign from heaven.<sup>17</sup> But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house *divided* against a house falls.<sup>18</sup> If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? Because you say I cast out demons by Beelzebub.<sup>19</sup> And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast *them* out? Therefore they will be your judges.<sup>20</sup> But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.<sup>21</sup> When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace.<sup>22</sup> But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils.<sup>23</sup> He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters.

### An Unclean Spirit Returns

<sup>24</sup> "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.'<sup>25</sup> And when he comes, he finds *it* swept and put in order.<sup>26</sup> Then he goes and takes with *him* seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first."

### Questions:

1. After Jesus was praying, what request was made? Was Jesus intending the prayer of vs 2-4 to be formally recited word for word? How is He here teaching us to pray? (Compare this with Matt 6:7-8)
2. What can we learn about praying from each of these phrases in this example of how to pray:
  - vs 2 Exalting and adoring the name of God.. "our Father in Heaven, hallowed by your name"
  - vs 2b Praying for God's kingdom and will.. "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as in heaven"
  - vs 3 Trusting God for daily necessities.. "Give us day by day our daily bread"
  - vs 4 Acknowledge our sins and seek forgiveness.. "forgive us our sins, we also forgive everyone.."
  - vs 5 God's protection and guidance.. "Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one"
3. In Jesus' story what request did the man make of his friend/neighbor? What was unusual about it? How would his friend respond and why?
4. Can we get God to change His mind by praying long enough for the same thing? If not, why did Jesus tell about this man who was heard for his persistence? What is the lesson about how God responds to our prayers?
5. Comparing how a normal father will give his children what is good, how should we understand that our Father is willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him? (compare John 7:37-39; 14:15-17; Rom 8:26-27)
6. What miracle did Jesus perform which amazed the multitude? Why did some accuse Him of casting out demons by Beelzebub?
7. How did Jesus answer this false charge? Explain the illustration of the house divided against itself. What point is Jesus making about the importance of unity vs division?
8. Explain the illustration of the strong man and the stronger man. What was the point in the context here?
9. What did the unclean spirit find when it returned to the man it had left? What application did Jesus intend from this story? (Notice Matthew's account in Matt 12:43-45) What lessons can we learn?