

GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES (For August 1, 2021)

FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

This morning we begin a new six-week Sunday sermon series focused on prayer. Prayer is meant to be natural, easy, and powerful. But for many, even those who have been Christians for a long time, prayer is confusing and difficult.

Am I praying enough? What if my mind wanders when I pray? Does God care whether I pray or not ... He already knows what I need? What should I pray for? Do my prayers change anything? These are some of the questions I've been asked, and I've asked myself, over the years.

Prayer has been a part of our relationship with God from the very beginning. We find prayers scattered throughout the Old Testament. In this series we will look at some of those prayers. In the New Testament Jesus not only asked us to pray, He prayed. This brings us to one of the most profound mysteries of our faith; Jesus, eternally one with the Father and the Holy Spirit prayed. If He prayed then there must be something important about our prayers too.

This morning we take a closer look at the most famous of prayers, which Christians call "The Lord's prayer." This prayer is recorded twice, here in Luke chapter 11, and also in Matthew chapter 5, each with small differences. In our passage this morning Jesus' closest followers asked Him, "Lord, teach us to pray." And so, whether we find prayer easy or difficult, a regular part of our life or an occasional part of our life, their request becomes ours as we ask, "Lord, teach us to pray."

Lord, Teach Us to Pray (SERMON PASSAGE: Luke 11:1-13)

¹ Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' ² And he said to them, 'When you pray, say:

"Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread,

⁴ and forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation."

⁵ And he said to them, 'Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves, ⁶ for a friend

of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him"; ⁷ and he will answer from within, "Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything"? ⁸ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹ And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹² or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. Why did this disciple ask Jesus to teach them to pray?
2. What are the main parts of the prayer Jesus taught?
3. In the story that followed why did the friend refuse to help?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

4. Why did Jesus spend time praying (Mt 14:23, Mk 1:35 ...)?
5. Why did Jesus wait before teaching His disciples to pray?
6. What does it mean that we are taught to pray, "Our Father"?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

7. How would you explain prayer to a non-Christian friend?
8. Pray the Lord's Prayer again. How many times have you prayed this prayer? What part is most meaningful for you?
9. When is it easiest for you to pray (morning, evening, throughout the day)? What do you pray for? Why do you pray? Do your prayers make a difference? Discuss/Explain.
10. Who, and what, should you be praying for right now?

Notes: _____

Spend time in silence, praying (even if just for a moment or two). Prayer is simply a conversation with God. Be honest. If you don't know how or what to pray admit that and ask God to help you pray. Ask God to help you talk to Him as you would talk to a friend. Ask God to show you who to pray for and what to pray for. Ask God to teach you to pray. As you pray the Lord's Prayer make each section a prayer of its own: to honor God, for daily bread, for forgiveness, for protection from evil. God loves us and He WILL help us as we pray.