

Prayer - Luke 11:5-13, 18:1-8 - Bible Study & Discussion

Context of Luke 11:5-13

What we call "the Lord's prayer". Jesus's disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray, and in Luke 11:2-4, we find His response. This is a simplified version of the similar account in Matthew 6 (which was at a different time, it seems). Jesus is teaching his disciples a model for prayer, and what we look at in verses 5-13 is about the personality of who we are praying **to**.

1. Most people lived in one-room houses, and slept with their families all in the same room. Why would this situation be bothersome?
2. As we see in verse 13, Jesus isn't comparing the sleeping man to God, instead he is *contrasting* him with God. But He is giving us an example to follow in the man seeking food. What does this man request? Why does this man make his request?
3. How does recognizing our own spiritual poverty help fuel prayer?
4. Why does the requesting man get what he's asking for?
5. What thing, specifically, does Jesus mention as what we should be asking for? Why do you think this is?
6. How should this short parable be a model for our prayer lives?
7. While the word "asking" is obvious, what do you think seeking and knocking look like when we apply them to our lives?
8. From this parable, what can we learn about God? What can we learn about ourselves?

Luke 18:1-8

Again, Jesus is contrasting God with the unrighteous judge, but comparing the persistent widow with how our prayer lives should operate.

1. What is the judge like? What can we infer his conduct was like?
2. Why was the woman coming to the judge?
3. Like the parable of the man with the visitor, why does the woman get what she is asking for?
4. What is the purpose Jesus telling this parable?
5. What do we see about God's sense of timing and our own?
6. At the end of verse 8, why do you think Jesus asks the question that He does?

Common questions:

1. Is there something you've been asking God for for a long time? Is there something that you've lost heart about in your asking?
2. In these two parables, why does Jesus stress persistence?
3. What would happen if God always gave us what we were asking for immediately?

4. How does persistent prayer build our faith?
5. When we pray, what does it say about us?
6. What does it say about God?
7. How is the character of God revealed in these two parables?

Time in prayer. Phil 4:6-7