

LUKE 11:1-13

REVIEW...

- **THE GOSPEL OF LUKE...**
 - The focus of Luke is on the humanity of Jesus – showing Him as the perfect flawless man...
 - Key Verse - **Luke 19:10** - “**The Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost.**”
- **LUKE 9:1-62 - SENDING OUT THE DISCIPLES / WHO DO MEN SAY I AM / POINTING TO JESUS...**
 - Jesus time had come – He began traveling south to Judea – His final trip to Jerusalem...
 - The 2nd half of the book of Luke - chapters 10-18 - all takes place during this time frame
- **LUKE 10:1-24 - SENDING OF THE 70 / RETURN OF THE 70...**
 - Jesus sent out 70 other disciples to preach the Good News - the harvest is ripe...
 - The 70 returned with great joy - Jesus told them to rejoice in their salvation...
 - Then He thanked the Father for the simplicity of the Gospel!
- **LUKE 10:25-37 - NOT GOOD ENOUGH...**
 - A lawyer of God’s Law came to Jesus to challenge Him - ‘what must I do to inherit life’...
 - The lawyer knew two greatest commands - Love God / Love your neighbor...
 - Jesus told him if he did those he would live - the lawyer asked ‘who is my neighbor’
 - The story of the Good Samaritan...
 - 3 men passed by a Jew who had been robbed and beaten - a priest / a Levite...
 - But only the Samaritan - sworn enemy of the Jews - stopped and helped...
 - Jesus point - to live up to the Law - you must love even your enemies!
 - Showing we cannot be righteous by what we do - by keeping the Law...
 - The story of Mary and Martha - righteousness comes by sitting at Jesus feet!

PRAYER... (3 POINTS)

- **1ST - HOW TO PRAY... VS. 1-4**
 - Jesus was praying in a certain place...
 - When He stopped - one of the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray...
 - The disciple mentioned the example of John the Baptist...
 - **Luke 5:33** - “**The disciples of John fast often and make prayers...**”
 - Apparently John and his disciples were famous for fasting and praying...
 - Jesus also made a habit to pray - **Matthew 14:23 / Mark 6:46 / Luke 6:12 / John 17**
 - Motivated by the example - the disciples also wanted to know how to pray...
 - The purpose of prayer...
 - The typical view of prayer is coming to God with a list - needs / wants / ect.
 - It is treated as a ritual - part of what God expects a Christian to do...
 - As if somehow if we recite some words to God once or twice a day - it is enough...
 - Rarely do we take the time in prayer to listen - it’s a one-way conversation...
 - It makes you wonder - if no one is answering - is anyone listening - **Luke 18:11**
 - Prayer is not a ritual - it should be a conversation...
 - God desires to hear from us – build a relationship with His kids...
 - **Prayer should be a conversation with our Father in heaven...**

- o How can we have a relationship with God - if we never get a chance to talk to Him...
- o Telling Him about our day - getting to know the God who created us...
- o Taking the time to listening to the wisdom He has for our lives!
- Praying in groups - or public prayer...
 - o There is nothing wrong with having a 'group' conversation with God...
 - o But watch the motive of the heart - do not pray to impress others...
 - o * **Matthew 6:5** - "When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them..."
 - o People who use big words - tremble their voice - to sound more spiritual...
 - o God is not impressed - at best they are acting like a fool embarrassing themselves...
 - o Prayer should be natural - simple conversation with God - no matter who is there!
- o Jesus gave the disciples a 'model prayer'...
 - Not a prayer to be repeated...
 - * **Matthew 6:7** - "When you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do."
 - Its Ok to repeat a prayer - Jesus asked the Father 3 times to take away cross...
 - Or asking for the same thing more than once - the persistent widow - **Luke 18:1-8**
 - But the idea of scripted prayers is just silly - that is a speech - not a prayer...
 - And we must be careful not to make prayer a ritual rather than a conversation...
 - Imagine if a 'friend' came up to you the same time every day and said the same thing...
 - Never any variation - never waiting around for a reply - no relationship!
 - When we simply repeat ourselves out of habit there is no conversation...
 - The 'Lord's Prayer' is not a prayer that we are to repeat word for word...
 - When you pray - Present/Active/Subjunctive
 - Jesus is not requiring us to pray - He is just showing us how to pray...
 - When we have a good day, when we have a hard day, when things go right...
 - When we don't know what to do next - find a quiet place and pray!
 - God does not demand we talk to Him - but He is available to talk any time we want!
- o The 'model for prayer'... (7 points)
 - 1st - Praise - 'Our Father in heaven, Holy be your name.'
 - Often when we face problems in life - our 1st response is to fret and worry...
 - It is only as a last resort - when all else fails - we go to the Lord in prayer...
 - **Philippians 4:6** - "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything..."
 - Yet when we praise God - we find whatever burden brought us to prayer is gone...
 - Our perspective changes - we see our circumstances in a new light...
 - We no longer see our problems - instead our God who is greater than any problem!
 - Our problems swallowed up in the praise of our incredible Lord!
 - 2nd - Seeking God's will - 'Your Kingdom come - Your will be done...'
 - God sees the end from the beginning - everything - knows what is best for our lives...
 - So it is only logical for us to desire 'God's will' for our lives...
 - Prayer is not about changing God's mind - getting Him to agree to our plans...
 - Prayer is about God changing our mind - getting us to line up with His plans - His will!
 - 3rd - Practical provision - 'Give us every day our daily bread.'
 - God promises to provide for all of our needs - but not necessarily our wants...
 - Therefore if we do not have it - we must not need it!

- Prayer helps make us content - remind us we have everything we need...

- 4th - Forgiveness – ‘Forgive us our sins - as we forgive others...’
 - We have been forgiven of all our sins - past/present/future - through the cross!
 - But God requires us to also forgive others - no matter what they do to us...
 - * **Matthew 6:13-14** - “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”
 - If we are unwilling to forgive others – then our Father will not forgive us...
 - If we are struggling with un-forgiveness/bitterness - take it to the Lord in prayer...
 - It is almost impossible to stay angry with someone we are praying for...
 - As we realize all we have been forgiven – God will give us the grace to forgive others!
- 5th - Keep us strong – ‘Do not bring us into trials...’
 - It would be a foolish prayer to ask God to send more ‘trials’ into my life!
 - None of us like trials - we certainly would not pray for God to ‘test’ our faith...
 - Though trials certainly have a purpose - they strengthen our faith...
 - Like a tree that has grown on the weathered windward side of the hill...
 - Trials make us unmovable / unshakable / grounded and rooted in Christ...
 - But through prayer we stay close to the Lord - so we don’t need to be tested!
- 6th - Keep us from satan – ‘Deliver us from the evil one’
 - * **I Peter 5:8** - “Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the Devil, your great enemy. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour.”
 - With God on our side there is nothing that can come against us - **Romans 8:31**
 - Satan can make a lot of noise - but he is like a lion without teeth - bark worse than bite!
 - Yet Satan is smart - he knows he cannot directly come against God’s people...
 - Instead he tries to get us to compromise our walk with the Lord...
 - If satan can trip us up with sin - he can get us to walk away from the protection of God...
 - Prayer keeps us close to God - far from sin - and safe from the attacks of satan!
- 7th - Praise – ‘Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.’
 - The prayer starts the same way it end - with Praise to God...

● 2ND - HOW OFTEN TO PRAY... VS. 5-10

- o Jesus gave the disciples ‘a story’ to show how often to pray...
 - If you went to your friend’s house at midnight - asking for 3 kilos of rice...
 - Saying - ‘some friends of mine have just arrived - and I have nothing to feed them’...
 - Your ‘friend’ is going to tell you to get lost - his door is shut / his whole family asleep!
 - Even if he is not willing to help because he is your friend...
 - If you keep knocking on his door - refuse to go away - you will get the rice!
 - God is our BEST friend - how much more will He be willing to help anytime we ask!
 - Jesus point - don’t stop praying until you get an answer from the Lord...
 - So often when we pray we give up after a week - or a month - or a year...
 - But God does not call us just to pray - God calls us to be a people of prayer...
 - **I Thessalonians 5:17** - “Pray without ceasing...”
 - Like a child who asks - OVER and OVER - until we give them what they want...
 - We need to be persistent in seeking the Lord - don’t give up!

- I imagine we will be amazed at how much God wanted to do in our lives...
- But it never happened simply because we gave up asking too quickly...

o So keep ask - seek - knock...

- Ask / Seek / Knock – Present/Active/Imperative
- Jesus commands us to be constantly - ASKING, SEEKING, KNOCKING
- Not just once – over and over again - and God will answer - Future/Passive/Indicative
- So does that mean we can ask for ANYTHING...
- **John 15:7** – “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”
- As we ABIDE in Jesus - we can ask for anything - and we will receive it!
- But often in life we ask God for selfish things - showing we are not abiding...
- **James 4:3** - “When you ask, you don’t get it because your whole motive is wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.”
- We ask God to win the Lotto - because we want to be rich and have lots of stuff...
- We justify ourselves motives - we would give a portion back to God...
- But if we won - the money would become our god - so God does not answer that prayer...
- But when we ask for those things that God has given us a desire for - **Psalm 37:4**
- Asking God to save a lost friend / family member - that’s a prayer God WILL answer!
- Sometimes it does not happen in a day – Uncle Jim – but God is always faithful!

● 3RD - WHAT TO PRAY FOR... VS. 11-13

o Jesus gave the disciples another ‘story’ to show what to pray for...

- If a son were hungry and asked for rice - would any father give him a stone...
- If a son asked for fish - would any father give him a snake...
- If a son asked for an egg - would any father give him a scorpion...
- If we - who are sinners - know how to give good gifts to our kids when they ask...
- How much more our Father in Heaven - will give good gift to us when we ask!

o The ‘gift’ the Father gives - the Holy Spirit...

- The Holy Spirit has several roles in our lives...
 - The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin - even before we believe in Jesus - **John 16:7-8**
 - The Holy Spirit come to live in us when after we receive Jesus - **I Corinthians 6:19**
 - The Holy Spirit is also the gives us the power to live boldly for Jesus...
 - The night Jesus was betrayed - He told Peter he would deny Him 3 times...
 - Peter adamantly denied it stating he would go to prison - even die for Jesus...
 - But he was trusting in his own ability - his strength - so he failed...
 - Yet 50 days later - the day the Holy Spirit was poured out - he preached - 3000 saved!
- How do you get the Power of the Spirit - just ask...
 - Not just once – but over and over and over again for - daily asking for the Holy Spirit
 - You need gas to run a car - but you need to keep filling that car up with gas...
 - We need also need to be daily filling up on the Holy Spirit to live for Jesus!
- The result of being filled with the Spirit...
 - **II Corinthians 4:7** – “We have this treasure in jars of clay...”
 - If we are full of ourselves - we will not be able to effectively serve the Lord...
 - If we are living a life where we feel constant defeat to sin in our lives...

- If we are lost and confused - don't know what God wants from our lives...
- We need to be emptied - pray that God fills us up instead with His the Holy Spirit...
- Then we will have the power of God to live our lives for Jesus!