

# Further up, Further in

## Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

### "PRAYER ACCORDING TO JESUS"

For individual study or group discussion

*"The potency of prayer has subdued the strength of fire; it has bridled the rage of lions, hushed the anarchy to rest, extinguished wars, appeased the elements, expelled demons, burst the chains of death, expanded the gates of heaven, assuaged diseases, repelled frauds, rescued cities from destruction, stayed the sun in its course, and arrested the progress of the thunderbolt. Prayer is an all-efficient panoply, a treasure undiminished, a mine which is never exhausted, a sky unobscured by clouds, a heaven unruffled by the storm. It is the root, the fountain, the mother of a thousand blessings." -- John Chrysostom*

The *Gospel of Luke* emphasizes prayer more than any other gospel. The two parables about prayer, *The Friend at Midnight* and *The Persistent Widow* are found only in Luke's narrative. Both parables emphasize a posture of bold persistence in our approach to prayer. In nine different instances, Luke records Christ modeling persistent prayer before his disciples as he retreats to spend time with the Father.<sup>1</sup> In Luke 11:1-13, we have recorded for us a passage on **prayer according to Jesus** where Christ further demonstrates his ongoing care for his people as *The Lord's Prayer* provides for us the **practice, pattern, and paradigm** for our prayers.

- You might recognize right away that Luke's record of *The Lord's Prayer* is an abbreviated version of Matthew's more familiar rendition (Matthew 6:9-13). How does Jesus' prayer reflect real relationship with God? What kind of implications should this relationship have on our prayer life?
- Read Matthew 22:36-40. How is the structure of Lord's Prayer a reflection of the "The Greatest Commandment"?

In verse 1, we see Jesus retreating in prayer. His *practice* of spending time alone in prayer prompts one of his disciples to ask, "Lord, teach us to pray." During his ministry of teaching, note that Christ never took the initiative to instruct his disciples in prayer, but waited for them to inquire of him.

- The disciples inquire about the manner of prayer (v. 1), but how does Jesus go deeper with his instruction in today's passage (vv. 5-13)?
- Luke connects Jesus' practice of prayer with important decisions made during the course of his ministry (Luke 6:12; 22:39-46), as well as ongoing care for his disciples (Luke 9:18; 10:17-21). How does Jesus' practice of frequently praying prompt you to reassess and recalibrate your prayer life?

*Jesus' pattern for prayer* encapsulates privilege (v. 2a), preeminence (v. 2b), purpose (v. 2c), provision (v. 3), pardon (v. 4a-b), and protection (v. 4c). Jesus' pattern invites us to converse with the creator of the universe as we rejoice in our relationship with God as Father, as we turn from our self-centeredness to a pattern of God-centeredness, and as our Father's priorities become our priorities.

- Being a prayerful church means that our prayers should be focused. The Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #1 asks, "What is the chief end of man?" The answer states, "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever." How does Jesus' pattern for prayer teach us to focus on glorifying and enjoying God?

*Jesus' paradigm for prayer* shifts our perspective on prayer. As we approach the Throne of Grace, at the center of prayer is a faith that believes God is a good Father. This bold paradigm for prayer is a God-centered approach that focuses on his desires. We can shamelessly approach God, because we trust God's answer to our prayers will be better than anything for which we could ask (Ephesians 3:20). And we know this to be true, because he has offered to give his Spirit to any who ask.

- Read Romans 8:26-27. Paul teaches that the efficacy of our prayers are not based on our abilities. What are our prayers dependent upon?
- Read Ephesians 3:16-20 and Hebrews 4:16. What gift does the Father give us, and how does this gift grant us the confidence to draw near and trust him?
- Is your prayer life persistent and bold? Try praying through the Psalms.

DATE: November 13, 2022

SPEAKER: Brian/Frank

SERIES: Gospel of Luke

PASSAGE: Luke 11:1-13

## Family Dinner Table

### The Necessity of Prayer

Tim Keller's book, *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*, delves into the topic of how Christians can experience meaningful prayer.

In the first chapter, Keller explains how he and his wife, Kathy, rediscovered the necessity of prayer when they were both diagnosed with severe health issues shortly after 9/11. Upon the urging of his wife, they began the practice of praying together every night. Kathy brought home the necessity of prayer when she offered the following illustration to Tim:

"Imagine you were diagnosed with such a lethal condition that the doctor told you that you would die within hours unless you took a particular medicine - a pill every night before going to sleep. Imagine that you were told that you could never miss it or you would die. Would you forget? Would you not get around to it some nights? No - it would be so crucial that you wouldn't forget, you would never miss. Well, if we don't pray together to God, we're not going to make it because of all we are facing. I'm certainly not. We have to pray, we can't let it just slip our minds."<sup>2</sup>

- Is your life characterized by prayer? As a family, commit to praying together every day.
- How can we as a church grow in prayerfulness? Use the weekly PrayLMPC email as your prayer guide.

### PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

**House of Refuge**, supported partner ministry

### PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

**Wenzong**, supported national partner.

*Wenzong opened a school in a tribal mountain village in Asia.*

<sup>1</sup>See Luke 3:21; 5:15-16; 6:12; 9:18; 9:29; 10:17-21; 11:1; 22:39-46; 23:34-36

<sup>2</sup>Keller, Timothy. *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*. Penguin Books, NY NY, 2014. 9-10