

## Insights Into Prayer

Luke 11:1-13

8/27/00

### Intro

Jesus was often found in prayer and the disciples were interested in knowing about how he prayed. They knew of the depth of relationship he had with God and wanted it as well.

As Jesus answers their request, we too, gain great insight into prayer. The disciples were right, prayer is an essential part of a relationship with God.

In these verses we gain insight into prayer.

Here Jesus teaches the **attitudes** of prayer, or the condition of the heart in prayer.

### I. Pray This Way – an Example of Prayer

Vs 2

#### A. “Father.”

- The word in the original is “Abba,” or Daddy.
- Come to God as a child would come to his Daddy.

**Illus-** Imagine if your dad was President of the United States.

#### B. Hallowed be Thy name.

- Even though He is Daddy, He should still be respected as an awesome God.
- Don't have a relationship with God that is too casual.

#### C. Thy Kingdom come.

- Pray for the reign of God to begin in your own heart,
- Before you ask for the reign of God in society.

#### D. Give us this day our daily bread.

- This is an attitude of dependence on God for our daily needs.
- Jesus said that He was the Bread of Life.
- God desires that we find the answer to our hunger in Him.
- There is a hunger such as what Jonathan described last week, but there is another hunger that comes from tasting the good things of God and wanting more.

**Illus-** Hazel's fresh peach pie.

**Illus-** The manna in the desert was an example of God's daily provision.

#### D. Forgive us our sins.

- He then makes an argument from the least to the greatest.

- “If sinners are capable of forgiving, then we know with certainty that God is much more capable of forgiving.”

E. Lead us not into temptation.

- We know from James 1:13 that God does not tempt anyone to sin.
- This is an attitude which says, “God, help me to flee from temptation.”

II. Be Persistent - Ask, Seek Knock.

Vs 5-8 A. The parable of a friend needing bread.

- If a man can get bread from a friend at midnight who does not *want* to give, how much more so from a God who *delights* to give?
- The argument goes from the lesser to the greater.

James 4:2 B. You do not have because you do not ask God.

- Vs 9-10
- Keep on asking, seeking, and knocking and the door will be opened to you.

III. God Answers with only Good Things.

Vs 11-13

A. If a son asks for a fish, would we give him a snake instead?

B. If we who are evil know how to give good gifts, how much more our Father in heaven.

C. Again the argument is from the lesser to the greater.

D. Sometimes God says no to our prayers because it is harmful to us if we received it.

E. The greatest gift is the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion

Some have asked, “Why do need to pray when God already knows what we need?”

The answer is that God does not run a catering service. What would happen if gave everything to our children in anticipation of what they need?

We have heard it said that prayer changes things. The first thing it changes is us.