

I have included a sermon brief to help you either follow along or reflect on the message, some links to helpful resources for further study, and then discussion questions. I hope it helps!

Sermon Brief

Text: Luke 11:2

Title: Gospel Driven Prayers

1. We are talking about prayer.
2. Last week we looked at verse 1 and tried to get some context for Jesus' instruction on prayer. It was a call to prayer. This week we are going to begin looking at verses 2-4 where Jesus gives us a model for prayer.
3. We are going to take our time going through this passage, because prayer is vitally important. It's hard to think of many things more important than prayer, and as we look down at Luke 11, we have a special opportunity, because this is one of the most important passages in the Bible on prayer.
4. This is Jesus on prayer!
5. And you remember how this got started. The disciples asked Jesus for help learning to pray, and Jesus responds by saying something very similar to something he already said in Matthew 6. And yet if you look at Matthew 6, you see that while there are many similarities there also are some significant differences and that is because Jesus is not giving us a specific formula to pray but instead a model for prayer.
6. This prayer contains principles that teach us how to approach God in prayer. Over the next several weeks we are going to look at these principles one by one, and the very first principle we are going to consider today is that **you need to begin prayer by making sure you really are believing and enjoying the gospel.**
7. Christian prayer starts with the gospel. The gospel teaches our hearts to pray. Prayer is an exercise of faith in the gospel.
8. And I get that from the way Jesus tells us to address God. He tells us we are supposed to speak to the first member of the Trinity as we pray and call Him Father. In Matthew Jesus adds the word our. This is a statement of relationship between us and God, and to be able to say we have that kind of relationship is shocking.
9. Stop and think about who God is. There are many things we might imagine being able to call the Creator of the Universe, but to be able to call Him our Father is almost too amazing, especially when you go the next step and think about who you are.
10. How did this happen?
11. It was a supernatural work of God in which He made us His child. More specifically, we have become God's children by means of adoption.
12. And one of the ways we honor God as Christians is by coming to him like we really believe we are not orphans, but adopted children. This is sort of basic biblical teaching. The Heidelberg Catechism puts it like this: Why do we call God Father? That immediately at the beginning of our prayer, he might excite in us a childlike reverence for and confidence in God, which are the foundations of prayer

13. Unfortunately, however we relate to God too often like we are orphans and so Jesus is telling us that when we come to God in prayer we need to start by remembering the gospel. If you are a Christian, you are coming to God in Christ. You are God's child. You are loved.
14. And one reason why I am taking so much time on just this one word, Father, is because there are going to be lots of times when we start praying and we are not gripped by the fact that we are children of God and that we are speaking to our Father and so we are going to have to work a little in prayer at enjoying this by remembering who God is, who we are, and by going back to the promises that we find in the gospel and making sure we are believing what we say we believe.

Helpful Links:

1. [God as Father: An Essay by Gerald Bray](#)
2. [Is the Father reluctantly gracious?](#) By Sinclair Ferguson
3. [Exhortations about communion with God the Father](#) by John Owen

Discussion Questions

1. What are some things that keep us from making a priority out of prayer?
2. What do you think it would look to be a person or church devoted to prayer?
3. Why does Luke 11 provide such a great opportunity to learn to pray?
4. What do we mean when we say the Lord's prayer is not just a prayer to be recited but a model for prayer?
5. What does the fact that Jesus tells us to address God as our Father tell us about how we as Christians should pray?
6. How are we able to call God our Father? When we are really meaning that in prayer, what are we saying about our relationship with God and how did that happen?
7. What does it look like to pray like an orphan and not an adopted child?
8. Read the following quote from John Owen and discuss your reactions to it: "Let us see the Father as love. Do look not at him as a father who is always critical, but as one who is most kind and tender. By faith let us look at him as someone who has had thoughts of kindness towards us from everlasting. Only a misapprehension of God would make someone run from the one who knows him in the least. "Those who know you will put their trust in you" (Ps. 9:10). Men cannot abide with God in spiritual meditations. They lose his company by lacking this insight into his love. They fix their thoughts only on his terrible majesty, severity, and greatness, and so their spirits are not endeared to him. If they would focus on his everlasting tenderness and compassion, his thoughts of kindness towards them from eternity, and his present gracious acceptance of them, then they could not bear an hour's absence from him. Now, perhaps, they cannot watch with him for even one hour (Mt. 16:40). Let this be the saints' first notion of the Father. He is one who is full of eternal, free love towards them. Let their hearts and thoughts break through any discouragement that lies in the way of this idea."

9. That is actually a pretty good summary of this week's message. This is what we are trying to do as we come to God in prayer calling Him Father. What are some things that keep you from being assured that God loves you?
10. This is actually a very big deal. Read one more quote from John Owen and discuss: "It is very acceptable to God our Father to hold communion with him in his love. Through this communion we receive him as one who is full of love, tenderness, and kindness towards us. In our flesh, we are apt to think that he is always angry, even implacable. We may feel that poor creatures like us are not to draw close to him. We may even think that it is more desirable to never come into his presence. "Who among us will dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us will dwell with everlasting burnings?" ask the sinners in Zion (Isa. 33:14). "I knew you were a harsh man," says the evil servant in the gospels (Mt. 25:24). There is nothing more grievous to the Lord, nor more helpful to Satan's design, than thoughts like these. Satan applauds when he is able to fill our soul with such thoughts of God. It satisfies all his desires. This has been his design and his way from the beginning. The first blood that murderer shed was by this means. He led our first parents into these severe thoughts of God: "Has God said so? Has he threatened you with death? He knows well enough it will be better with you;" (Gen. 3:1). With this war engine he battered and overthrew all mankind in one step. Remembering his ancient conquest, he readily uses the same weapons today that he so successfully used then."
11. How can you work on enjoying God as Father more in your prayer life this week?