

Sermon Brief, Helpful Links, Discussion Questions

March 28, 2021

Luke 11:5-13

“Why Pray?”

Sermon Brief:

This week the sermon brief is pretty brief.

We are looking at Luke 11:5-13.

Jesus has told his disciples he is going to die on the cross.

In Luke 9 through 19 he’s explaining how that reality should impact their lives and what it means to be one of his disciples.

In other words, how were they supposed to live if Jesus wasn’t going to establish His kingdom right away, the way they thought and if they were going to suffer the way they were as a result.

First, Jesus says they need to make a priority out of listening to His Word. (10:38-42)

Second, Jesus says they need to make a priority out of prayer. (11:1-13)

As he talks to them about prayer, he begins by telling them how to pray. (11:1-4)

They are to keep on praying for God to keep His promises and establish His kingdom, even though they are going to see Jesus crucified.

Because that’s going to be difficult for them to understand and process, after teaching them how to pray, Jesus goes on to explain why they should pray like that. (11:5-13.)

The first reason is that it is a command. It’s a matter of obedience. The second reason is because God promises to answer their prayers. (V.9-10)

But, because Jesus knows it is going to take a while, and there is going to be a lot of suffering, Jesus doesn’t only give them a command to pray and a promise, he also tells two stories and makes one statement that give assurance that God really is going to keep His promise. (V.5-8,11-13)

Helpful Links and Resources

1. [Finding the Confidence to Pray](#)
2. [Do Our Prayers Change God's Mind?](#)
3. [The Problem of Unanswered Prayer](#)

Discussion Questions:

1. Obviously, there are a lot of obstacles to living out the Christian life, a lot of things that are disappointing. What are some of the kinds of things that you have gotten discouraged about lately?
2. We're not the first to be discouraged. In Luke 9 and 10, Jesus is giving the disciples some news that was definitely going to disappoint them at first. How were they expecting the kingdom to be established? What is Jesus telling them is going to happen first instead?
3. Because things were going to go so differently than they expected, Jesus is giving them some vital instruction on what they needed to focus on if they were going to follow Him. The first in Luke 10:38-42 is listening to His Word. The second in Luke 11 is prayer. (Right now in this world that is marked by the cross, by suffering, by persecution, by hostility to the gospel, those are the two key areas we need to focus on as a church if we are going to be faithful to Christ's mission!)
4. Lately we have been focusing especially on what he says about prayer. He begins in verses 2-4 by teaching them how to pray. Now notice here, although Jesus has told them that the kingdom is not coming the way they expected, what does he tell them to keep praying for in these verses?
5. A central part of their prayer life was to be "your kingdom come." Do you see how this might have been challenging for the disciples? How might it have been challenging to pray for the kingdom to come after seeing Jesus crucified?
6. Right now, we're in a different situation than the disciples, but we are not in *that* different of a situation. Like the disciples, we've got these big promises of God about how he is going to fix everything that we are hoping in, and then we've got this world we are living in. This creates a big temptation for us when it comes to prayer. Turn over to Luke 17 for a minute. How does Jesus describe what life is going to be like for the disciples in verses 22-27? Now that doesn't mean the judgment is not coming and the kingdom is not coming. You can see that in the rest of the passage. But what is the temptation going to be for them as a result of the way this world is right now in chapter 18:1?
7. One of our main jobs as a church is to pray. One of our biggest temptations is to lose heart. And, coming back to Luke 11, I think that temptation actually helps us understand a little what's going on in this passage. We're supposed to pray, to keep on hoping for Jesus to come back and fix things, but it's easy in this world to lose heart because it looks a whole lot like the church is losing. What command and promise does Jesus give to people who are growing discouraged in praying and hoping in verse 9 and 10?
8. It's like Jesus is saying, ok, it looks like a train smash. I am going to be crucified. But that doesn't mean it's over. Pray for the kingdom of God to come because God's going to answer that prayer. But he knows that is going to be difficult, and he is kind and so he doesn't just give the promise, He also tells two stories to give us confidence that God really will listen and answer. See if you can explain the stories and how they encourage us to pray in your own words.
9. And he doesn't stop there! We have an additional encouragement to pray in these verses that the disciples at the point in time Jesus is speaking to them didn't have. What is that encouragement? (Hint: look at the end of verse 13.)

10. What is the Holy Spirit doing here? How is this fulfilled in the book of Acts and today? What does the gift of the Spirit have to do with the kingdom? In what way should that encourage us to pray?