

of Discipleship

June 12, 2022

Day 1: Luke 11:1

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.'

The prayer Jesus taught His disciples seems to be more of a prayer outline. I have wondered if Jesus wanted us to use the phrases as a guide to praying. When we pray we want to know that our prayer is received. It is hard to know if it is heard when there is not a quick response. Our mind tells us that God is not obligated to respond in our time frame but still we want to know that our prayer is heard. Jesus is giving an outline with assurance that if we pray this way we can be assured that we have prayed correctly and that God will respond.

Question: Why do we need a form if God knows what we need before we ask?

Challenge: Each day this week stop at each phrase of the Lord's Prayer (you can use Luke 11:1-4 or Matthew 6:9-13) and spend a few minutes thinking about the phrase and what it means.

Scripture: Matthew 6:1-17

Day 2: Luke 11:2a

He said to them, 'When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name,

Luke's form of the prayer helps us to pay attention to the simplicity of the prayer and the directness of its petitions. The term "Abba" is the familiar form of father. It is the form Jesus used to refer to God. It denotes a connection between Jesus and God that is very close, like a son to a father. Jesus invites his disciples to use the same term, thereby acknowledging that they have an intimate connection to God through Jesus.

Question: What makes something or someone holy?

Challenge: Come up with five differences between an earthly father and our heavenly one.

Scripture: Psalm 103:8-18

Day 3: Luke 11:2b *your kingdom come.*

The name of God is holy and is both a statement of fact and a desire that it will be holy over all the earth. God's kingdom will be extended to the whole earth and some day all will acknowledge that God is ruler. In the second Temple Judaism they earnestly waited for the "Day of the Lord" (Isaiah 13:6, Joel 2:1).

Question: How do you understand the idea that the kingdom has come but not completely?

Challenge: How can you be a part of kingdom building?

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 4:15-5:7, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-7

Day 4: Luke 11:3

**Give us each day
our daily bread.**

The daily bread recalls the bread in the Wilderness. The Israelites were hungry and called on the Lord to provide food. God answers their request and teaches them about how dependable and merciful He can be. God provides them bread each day and a double portion on the day before Sabbath. All the manna spoiled after a day so the people had to depend on God each day for their food. This part of the prayer is not only a request for food but a request that we recall each day how dependent we are upon God. God is the creator of the world and of all that is in it.

Question: What two other things did God provide while the Israelites were in the wilderness?

Challenge: Do a little research as to what Manna was.

Scripture: Exodus 17:1-8, Exodus 16:8-18

Day 5: Luke 11:4a

And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

This is not a conditional phrase even though it looks like it. The ability to forgive and to be forgiven is part of the same gift. We are not to forgive so that we can receive forgiveness but we forgive because we have received forgiveness. God's mercy flows in the same channel whether we are the forgiven or the forgiver. As much as we need bread, so too do we need forgiveness. We are prone to sin and if we cannot forgive each other then we cannot be in relationship.

Question: What part does forgetting have to do with forgiving?

Challenge: Make a list of persons you have offended and decide what you want to do about it. Now make a list of persons who have offended you and see what you want to do about it.

Scripture: Colossians 3:1-14

Day 6: Luke 11:4b

And do not bring us to the time of trial.

The time of trial or testing is anything that calls our faith into question. The petition is a request to avoid the pain that life can sometimes cause. Our faith and our belief that we are dependent upon God is not a risk when life is going well but when life is not going well. As much as we try to deny it we still believe that if we are good we should be rewarded. We believe we ought to be rewarded by God or society. The petition is a heartfelt plea for evil not to come our way. But as Jesus prayed in the garden, "not my will but yours," so too that is our prayer. Deliverer us from evil but not my will but yours.

Question: Which word seems best to you: Trial, Testing, or Temptation?

Challenge: Can you think of a time when you felt your faith tested? Did your faith grow because of that testing and why?

Scripture: Luke 22:41-51