

# “Lord, Teach Us To Pray”

Luke 11:1-4

## Introduction:

- A. Jesus took for granted that his followers *would* pray.
  - 1. “**When** you pray...”, never “**if** you pray...” (cf. Matt. 6:5,6,7; Mk. 11:24; Lk. 11:2)
  - 2. It was an old, universal and often perverted practice.
    - a. Among Jews. (cf. Gen. 20:17; Num. 21:7; Jas. 5:17)
    - b. Among Gentiles. (Acts 10:2).
    - c. Both often perverted it. (Matt. 6:5,7)
- B. Jesus taught that his followers *should* pray by precept and example -- and do it right.
  - 1. His personal example and teaching.
  - 2. Instructions from all Holy Scripture.
  - 3. Certain *facts* about praying that we need to know to do right.

## Discussion:

### II. Some Facts about the *Contents* of Prayer.

- A. Learned from the model prayer. (Lk. 11:1-4; Matt. 6:9-13)
  - 1. Dignified address to the Father - “Our Father in heaven.”
  - 2. Praise for God - “Hallowed Be Your Name”; “Yours is kingdom...power... glory. (cf. “Thee & Thou”)
  - 3. Plea for God’s will rather than ours - “Your will be done...”
  - 4. Plea for material needs - “Daily bread”
  - 5. Plea for spiritual needs - “Forgive”; “Do lead us into temptation.”
- B. Learned from other Scriptures.
  - 1. To the Father, in the Son’s name. (John 16:23).
    - a. Two *apparent* exceptions (Acts 7:59-60; 2 Cor. 12:8,9).
    - b. Verse 59 is a problem; in other cases, “Lord” can mean the Father. (Heb. 6:17-18; Heb. 10:30-31).
  - 2. Contains several elements. (1 Tim. 2:1).
  - 3. Contents short or long. (Lk. 6:12; Matt. 26:39)
  - 4. Contents may repeat, but not vain repetition. (Matt. 26:44; 6:7)
  - 5. Pray for and about just about anything or anyone. (Phil. 4:6).
    - a. For rulers. (1 Tim. 2:1).
    - b. For enemies. (Matt. 5:43,44).
    - c. For lost. (Rom. 10:1).
    - d. For sick. (Jas. 5:14).
    - e. For brethren. (Col. 4:2-4).
    - f. For self. (Jas. 1:5)

### III. Some Facts about the *Attitude* in Prayer.

- A. With faith, confidence and without wrath. (1 Tim. 2:8; Jas. 1:6).
- B. With forgiving heart. (Matt. 6:14,15).
- C. With “pure heart and holy hands”. (Prov. 28:9; John 9:31; 1 Tim. 2:8).
- D. To commune with God, not to impress men. (Matt. 6:5,7)

### IV. Some Facts about the *Times* for Prayer.

- A. Daily. (Matt. 6:11).
- B. Always. (Luke 18:1)
- C. Without ceasing. (1 Thess. 5:17)
- D. Night and day. (2 Tim. 1:3)
- E. At mealtime. (1 Tim. 4:3-5).
- F. In time of stress and rejoicing. (Phil. 4:6,7; 1 Pet. 5:7; cf. Matt. 26:39; Acts 28:15)

### V. Some Facts about the *Setting* for Prayer.

- A. In a private setting. (Mark 1:35; cf. Matt. 6:6)
- B. In a public setting.
  - 1. In the church assembly. (1 Cor. 14:15-17; Acts 12:5)
  - 2. At other places with others present. (Acts 16:25).

### VI. Some Facts about the *Results* of Prayer.

- A. Results depend on God’s will. (1 John 5:14).
- B. Results depends on our conduct. (James 4:3; 1 Pet. 3:7).
- C. Results can be providential without being miraculous. (Jas. 5:17-18).

## Conclusion:

- A. May we learn to pray in harmony with his will.
- B. May we learn to depend on God enough to constantly feel the need to pray.
- C. May we learn that prayer is basically a simple but dignified talk with God.