

The prayer the Lord had taught (Luke 11:1-28)

We have been studying the gospel of Luke together. Today, we will study the theme “The prayer the Lord had taught” from the first half of cp. 11, vv. 1 to 28.

1. Call God “Father”

v 1-4

¹ One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." ² He said to them, "When you pray, say: " 'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴ Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation. ' "

The disciples had seen Jesus praying many times. Here, they asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. In the very fact that Jesus was a man of prayer, his disciples saw this, and they too wanted to be men of prayer. Jesus showed them the model of prayer.

I think that in this prayer, nothing must have been really new for the disciples. They might not have prayed exactly like this before, but I think they already had almost everything listed here in their heart.

In general, we call this prayer, “The Lord’s prayer”. We have impression that Jesus taught his disciples prayer which he prayed. But, had Jesus actually prayed exactly like this? I think Jesus himself didn't pray this. Because here it says, “forgive us our sins.” As Jesus never sinned, it is unlikely that he prayed like this.

Anyway, I want you to pay attention here that Jesus taught to called God “Father” in this prayer.

Our prayer is based on the relationship in which we can call God “Father”. We pray to God because we have relationship with Him in which we can call Him Father.

Some people tend to believe that their prayer will be heard by God by doing certain rituals or taking certain procedure. Some people tend to think their prayer would become valid as prayer if they chant certain phrase or secret key

word or do something religious. But that is not the prayer based on our relationship with Father.

We pray because we have relationship with God in which we can call Him "Father". And we know that God certainly hears our prayer. Prayer is not ritual or set phrases, but prayer is prayed in the relationship in which we call God Father.

2. Continue to seek

v 5-8

⁵ Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶ because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.'⁷ "Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.'⁸ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

We must remember that the context here is still the question of prayer. We must learn to be persistent in prayer. This does not mean "persistently praying the Lord's Prayer" but persistently praying!

We just saw that prayer is based on the relationship in which we can call God "Father". Then, you might think because God cares for us like a father cares for his children, if we pray a little prayer vaguely, God will answer, He will do all our wishes. But, from this part, we know that is not true.

Jesus says in v.8: "I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs." (NASB)

Boldly, persistently keep asking. That should be the attitude Jesus told us to take when we pray.

We think "Courtesy should exist even among close friends." That is good in human relations. We don't usually go to a friend's house at midnight when his door is already shut, knock on the door, wake him up and ask for bread. We

don't do that. But, in prayer, we don't need that kind of hesitation, modesty or common sense of the world. Those things would only hinder us from praying to God boldly.

Jesus told us to ask God boldly and persistently without hesitation. That is the attitude Jesus told us to take when we pray.

We can't just assume God will perceive what we want to say, and take care of all our need without us praying. We don't have to think "Courtesy should exist even between me and God", and try to be reserved and be modest and try not to disturb God. That kind of thinking would only prevent us from praying to God.

Why can we ask God boldly and persistently without hesitation? Because we know that we are accepted as righteous before God. And we know we are accepted by God, because we have relationship with God in which we can call Him "Father". We are not timidly talking to a big name who is far away. We are not asking an unapproachable, highly positioned person with our petition in our hands. We ask God without hesitation because we know Him as our father. And God will give us what we need if we keep asking Him.

3. Conviction of receiving

v 9-13

⁹ "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

God doesn't just give us whatever we ask Him. But He gives us what we really need. God never gives us anything bad. He gives us good things. Because we know that, we continue to ask Him. We will keep asking until we receive.

If we have any doubt that we may not find even if we seek, we will stop seeking halfway. If we are worried that the door may not be opened even if we knock, we will give up halfway.

But, if we have conviction that we will definitely receive if we ask, we will receive what we need, what is best for us, and then we will keep asking until we receive. We will never stop, never give up.

Let's look at the prayer Jesus taught the disciples once again.

" 'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation. ' "

Then he said, "Ask persistently, and you will receive what you need."

Then, how God answers our prayer? By giving us the Holy Spirit. God answers each of the prayers in verse 2 to 4.

By the Holy Spirit, we know that God is our heavenly Father and we are His children. By the Holy Spirit, we praise. By the Holy Spirit, we worship. By the Holy Spirit, we do mighty works. By the Holy Spirit, we understand that the kingdom of God is among us. By the Holy Spirit, we have faith that God will provide our daily need. By the Holy Spirit, we know that our sins are forgiven. By the Holy Spirit, we forgive others and love them. By the Holy Spirit, we will overcome temptations and trials.

Jesus taught his disciples a model of prayer. And he said, "Ask persistently, and you will receive what you need." How God answers our prayer? By giving us the Holy Spirit.

v 14-23

¹⁴ Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon left, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowd was amazed. ¹⁵ But some of them said, "By Beelzebub, the prince of demons, he is driving out demons." ¹⁶ Others tested him by asking for a sign from heaven. ¹⁷ Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. ¹⁸ If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebub. ¹⁹ Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. ²⁰ But if I drive out

demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you. ²¹ "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. ²² But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils. ²³ "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters.

Here Jesus was casting out a demon from a person. Some of those who saw this said, "Jesus casts out demons by the ruler of the demons." Jesus said, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation. If Satan also is divided against himself, his kingdom will not stand."

That is, you can't cast out demons by the power of demons, Jesus says.

Then, what does it show that Jesus had cast out demons?

Firstly, Jesus is stronger than demons.

Secondly, Jesus doesn't belong to Satan's kingdom.

Thirdly, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you through Jesus.

Satan rules the world of darkness with evil spirits. He walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8). He tries to deceive Christians and make them fall away from faith. That has not been changed for the last 2000 years, or 6000 years.

A man cannot overcome evil spirits by his own power. No matter what spell you recite, whatever ritual you perform or training you do, you cannot overcome evil spirits. But, if we are filled with the Holy Spirit, evil spirits cannot rule over us any longer, because the Holy Spirit is stronger than evil spirits.

Then what about those who are not filled with the Holy Spirit?

4. Constantly being filled with the Holy Spirit

v 24-26

²⁴ "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' ²⁵ When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. ²⁶ Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first."

It's a great blessing to be released from the rule of evil spirits by the power of Jesus. It's a great blessing to be saved from the power of sin by the cross of Jesus. But, after released from the rule of evil spirits, saved from the power of sin, if we are not filled with the Holy Spirit, what happened in this parable can also happen to us.

Evil spirits are seeking a place to rest. The devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. He tries to deceive Christians and make them fall away from faith. That has not been changed for the last 2000 years.

Ephesians 5:18 "And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit."

It is not an option for a Christian to be filled with the Holy Spirit. "If I want to be filled, then be filled. And if I don't want to be filled, that's okay." It's not like that. Christians need to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

If we once experienced something really spiritual, will everything be okay after that? No, it's not. If we were baptized with the Holy Spirit one day, are we all right then? No, not necessarily. We Christians need to be filled with the Holy Spirit all the time.

Galatians 5:25 "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

Christians always need to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus taught his disciples how to pray. And he said, "Ask persistently, and you will receive what you need." "Ask and it will be given to you." "How much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

5. A lifestyle Consistent with prayer

v 27-28

²⁷ As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you." ²⁸ He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

The disciples learned from Jesus how to pray. We also studied about prayer. We study the Bible and understand more about the Word of God, but if

we stop there, it is no good. Here Jesus says clearly, "Blessed *are* those who hear the word of God and keep it! (NKJ)" When we hear the Word of God, it will not become our strength until we receive it by faith and do it by faith. Because "Blessed *are* those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

At the end of his life, king David spoke to his son Solomon.

"My son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever." (1 Chr. 28:9)

David knew that his son Solomon was not serving God with a willing mind, didn't love God with wholehearted devotion. He knew that Solomon didn't know the Lord as David himself experienced and knew the Lord. So he admonished his son Solomon. And he also prayed and asked the Lord to give his son Solomon the wholehearted devotion. (1 Chr. 29:19)

Solomon built a magnificent temple. He governed the people well with the wisdom given by God, and the nation prospered with wealth and riches. But later his heart left the Lord. (1 King 11:4, 9) It seems that the prayer of king David was answered, but the prayer of father David was not answered.

I wonder if David was as careful to spend time with his children and repeatedly shared with them his experience with God, as he was so careful to make good preparation to build God's temple. Probably he didn't.

We can see how important it is that what we seek in our prayer and our lifestyle should be synchronized.

Today, we studied about "The prayer the Lord had taught." Let's remember 5 Cs we learned today. 1) Call God "Father", 2) Continue to seek, 3) Conviction of receiving, 4) Constantly being filled with the Holy Spirit, and 5) a lifestyle Consistent with prayer.