

TEACH US TO PRAY

LUKE 11

Text:

Introduction:

Jesus had just given one lesson on prayer. It is a young Christian's prayer. It is simple. It is rather general, asking for the entire world to hallow God's name, for His will to be done in all the earth. It is self-centered - I ask for my daily bread, forgiveness for my sins, and deliverance from my temptations.

But the Lord now has another lesson, about another kind of prayer. It is intercessory prayer, for others. I believe that this was the type of praying that took place with the 120 people before Pentecost.

Notice:

1. THE CONCERN OF THE FRIEND.

A. Was concerned that the needs of his guest were met.

B. Was concerned enough to go out and meet the need.

C. Knew where to go for help.

2. THE COMPASSION OF THE FRIEND.

A. Went to his "friends" house to ask for help.

1. Had a humble spirit.

2. Wasn't too proud to let his friend know not only his need but also the need of his visiting friend.

B. Went at an inconvenient time.

1. Midnight, most folks were sleeping soundly at this time.

3. THE COLDNESS OF ONE FRIEND.

A. I believe represents a number of "Christians" today.

1. Don't bother me

2. Don't call me I'll call you.

3. You should have been better prepared.

B. Too many times we close the door in the face of those we are to help.

4. THE CONSISTENCY OF THE OTHER FRIEND.

A. His importunity (vs. 8)

1. Did not give up after the first request was not granted.
2. Continued to knock and ask unashamedly.
3. His persistence paid off.

5. THE CONTRASTS OF THE COLD FRIEND TO OUR TRUE FRIEND JESUS.

A. Is not a picture of God but rather a contrast. (vs 9-13)

B. God desires to meet our needs as well as grant our desires.

1. Notice that the desires were not personal, but for a friend.
2. Prayer is more than asking for ourselves, but being concerned for others.

C. We need to be persistent in prayer.

1. Persistence in prayer overcomes our insensitivity, not Gods.
2. Persistence in prayer does more to change our hearts and minds than God's.
3. Persistence in prayer helps us understand and express the intensity of our need.
4. Persistence in prayer helps us recognize God's work when we see it.

Close:

Lord teach us to pray!