

“Your Heavenly Dad wants to hear from you” Luke 11:1-11

Reintroduce Sermon series

Slide- Picture of Wilson Family -impressionist period

This picture will get top billing on the refrigerator because....

Your picture is on God’s refrigerator door because your heavenly Dad delights in you.

INTRO HOOK

Today my theme and main point is **“Your Heavenly Dad wants to hear from you”**.

Do you remember the first time that you prayed? Where were you? Do you recall the first time you prayed out loud? What do you remember about prayer when you were a child? Did your family pray at the dinner table? Did they pray at special events? Did you go to a church where prayer was happening?

Do you recall a time when someone led you through a prayer? Or said or said a prayer alongside you?

- I can recall when I was a child a prayer was always said at the dinner table.
- I also recall a special prayer when we moved from our 2 bedroom 1100 sq ft house into our palacios 1500 square foot mansion that had a separate bedroom for me and my sister. I distinctly remember my Dad commemorated the new move in by praying in the bathroom with a match in hand - the electricity had not yet been turned on. That's a memory! I remember my sister saying the prayer when we spent the night at our grandparents' house in the country. She led me through that infamous prayer now I lay me down to sleep...
- I remember very distinctly at age 13 a young man leading me through prayer that affirmed my trusting in Christ as Savior and Lord; and making the decision to get baptized.
- A year or two after that I remember our lead pastor leading me and one of my best friends through a prayer asking God if He was calling us to be future pastors.

These prayers were **difference makers** in my life although at the time they just seemed like a prayer.

SLIDE (PICTURE OF FATHER PRAYING WITH CHILD - GOD LOOKING ON)

Prayer matters and Prayer is powerful BUT what you need to know today is:

.I qwt"J gcxgpr{ "F cf "y cpw"vq"j gct"htqo "{qw" He delights in you and wants to hear your prayers. Not sure? Many Bible verses affirm this, here are 3:

Psalm 18:6 – *In my f kvtguu I called to the LORD; I cried to God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears.*

Psalm 116:1-3 - *I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for o gte{0*

1 John 5:14-15 – This is the confidence we have in approaching God; that if we ask anything **ceeqtf lpi "vq"j ku'y km** he hears us.

Let's Pray

HOW TO PRAY

Video clip of king of Queens. 1min. 36sec.

<https://vimeo.com/156852447>

I'm sure you know someone who has prayed a magic genie prayer and had it answered. You may have had a prayer or two like that answered yourself. But for everyone who has prayed a magic genie prayer and got it answered there are ten others who feel like all they get is silence. And what you prayed for wasn't trivial. It was important.

You prayed for someone who was sick but they weren't healed. They just stayed sick.
You prayed for a miraculous answer to your financial issues and they didn't get better. You just went on struggling.
You prayed that a broken relationship would get better, but it just stayed broke.

Have you ever wondered if, when it comes to prayer, if you're just doing it wrong. That you aren't saying the right words or doing the right hand motions or you should be kneeling or something to make it work better? Have you ever thought that there is a right way to pray and you're just not doing it right.

Well, What is prayer exactly? In simple terms, prayer is talking to God. It's a conversation. How do I know if I am doing it right? **Great question!!! We all ask this to some degree.**

WE HAVE HELP! Do you realize how many Bible passages there are that highlights Jesus in prayer(25+)? especially in the gospel of Luke (16), Jesus in prayer highlighted often.

(SLIDE - HOW DO I PRAY? Luke 11:1-5)

How do I pray? In in Luke Chapter 11, Jesus disciples are wondering the same thing, in fact ask Jesus to teach them to pray. Let's read Luke 11.

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

² So He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Our[Ⓐ] Father [Ⓑ]in heaven,
Hallowed be (HOLY is) Your name.
Your kingdom come.
[Ⓒ]Your will be done
On earth as *it is* in heaven.
³ Give us day by day our daily bread.
⁴ And forgive us our sins,
For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.
And do not lead us into temptation,
[Ⓓ]But deliver us from the evil one." NKJV

Why did the disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray?

They knew how to pray, however they observed JTB and Jesus doing prayer differently. They continually observed Jesus in prayer,(certain place) it was part of his regular routine, it was his WAY of life. **Prayer is an act of obedience but its more. Prayer is more than an action you do, it is the WAY you live.**

Let's look at the prayer more closely – How is it different?

(SLIDE)

Our [Ⓐ] Father [Ⓑ] in heaven,	
Hallowed be (HOLY is) Your name.	Adoration (worship)
Your kingdom come.	
[Ⓒ] Your will be done	
On earth as <i>it is</i> in heaven.	Consecration (surrender)
³ Give us day by day our daily bread.	Supplication (daily needs)
⁴ And forgive us our sins,	
For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.	Intercession (forgiveness)
And do not lead us into temptation,	
[Ⓓ] But deliver us from the evil one." NKJV	Protection (full armor)

This isn't just a model prayer, it's a model practice and becomes a WAY – A WAY of life that leads to transformation.

5Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: "Suppose you went to a friend's house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, 6'A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.' 7And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, 'Don't bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can't help you.' 8But I tell you this—though he won't do it for friendship's sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence."

11"You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? 12Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! 13So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him."

What is Jesus teaching us about the practice of prayer? About God's Character?

- Heavenly Dad wants to hear from us. He loves us more so than our neighbor!
- We have needs. Needs we cannot meet. He wants us to express them to Him.
- He does not get tired or bored with our prayer;
- **Persistence!** *But not on-demand! Or obnoxious, not irreverent*

Quote: The value of persistent prayer is not that God will hear us, that we will finally hear God. William McGill

(SLIDE) Image of a father waiting on a call from his daughter. Anticipation by the father; either busy-ness, reluctance or indifference by the daughter

I'm a dad with two wonderful daughters. Any dads out there? Any sons or daughters? I discovered there are certain things that daughters don't tell their dads and I'm probably OK with that at least at times. But as they were growing up I really did want to hear from them and hear how they were doing each day. Especially wanted to hear stuff where they needed help.

Did you ever get one of those calls you know where it begins with "dad don't freak out but.... I've been in car wreck....OR Dad I got pulled over by a cop!!!"

Isn't that how we are sometimes with our heavenly dad. We only want to talk to him when we get in trouble and really need help. However, like my heavenly dad, I would like to hear from my kid when they're not just in trouble. How about a call like Dad I'm doing OK, i'm just checking in - things are good.

CONNECTION ISSUES

(slide) picture of person fiddling with their phone with befuddled look

So, why don't we talk to our Heavenly Dad more often... Our Heavenly Dad is wanting to hear from you, but we have connection issues...

It's a weak connection

- Deep down I doubt whether prayer really works.
- I don't feel I am good enough to deserve an answer. V. 5-13
- I see God as being distant, and I am too insignificant.

I really don't know how

- There are so many different kinds of prayer I'm not sure how to pray.
- Don't know how - I don't do it very well.
- I am not sure I am praying in line with God's will. V. 2

Real issues; we all have our own connection issues. But we need to confront them. Our Heavenly Dad actually has a remedy to fix these connection issues.

The TURNING POINT
is verse 2 "Thy will be done".

Prayer is the remedy!

First - Doing prayer IS GOD's Will.

Second - By practicing prayer He draws us into His will. He wants us to be in sync with Him and His will. Alignment of our requests, intentions and motives with His will.

Conversation with God opens the door to our heart and allow us to enter into God's own Heart for this alignment.

By practicing prayer, God changes our Life.

Personal Story: about 5 years ago I started my time of prayer each day with the Lord's Prayer...in my words, not King James. Did that for a full year. Changed my attitude, my perspective and my reverence for God. Through the **practice** of prayer, God grew my **faith** – grew my **resilience and highlighted God's Holiness. A gamechanger.**

Quote: *The whole reason why we pray is to be united into the vision and contemplation of God to whom we pray.* Julian of Norwich

NEXT STEPS What can I do now?

Pray and pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:16-17)

- Pray with someone, family or friend
- Join a Life Group
- Come to Prayer Night – Tonight! Here at 6:00
- Lead someone in prayer – start with your kids
- You see prayer is not just an act we do, it is a way that you live. This is the WAY of Jesus

SLIDE (PICTURE OF FATHER PRAYING WITH CHILD - GOD LOOKING ON – with script “Your Heavenly Dad is wanting to hear from you”

Heavenly Dad’s perspective is much bigger, much broader, much wiser than ours.

What would happen if you lived your life in such a way that prayer happened every single day, and often during the day; so often there's continual awareness and conversation with your heavenly Dad.

What kind of difference would it have made if someone led you through prayer all throughout your childhood. Through adulthood? What kind of difference would make if you decided this next week to lead someone in prayer or pray along with them. I have my wife Serena and my daughter Kara who point and lead me to prayer every day.

I think we would be totally amazed if we had God’s vantage point and could see our prayers from His perspective. **The Scoreboard.** Do you have a prayer scoreboard in term of wins/losses. What would God’s scoreboard look like??? All wins, no losses but notes in the margin: **NOT YET; NEEDS SOME ALIGNMENT; REDIRECT TO SOMETHING THAT’S TOTALLY BEYOND WHAT THEY IMAGINED; NEEDS SOME GRACE AND COMFORT**

YOUR HEAVENLY DAD IS WANTING TO HEAR FROM YOU!

How about let's pray.

Benediction: verse

Prayer at the cross

Sermon Summary

The main text is Luke 11:1-11 when Jesus is teaching his disciples how to pray. There are many supporting passages on prayer everywhere, but the main theme is **“Your heavenly Dad wants to hear from you”**. Jesus shows his disciples **how to Pray**, and demonstrates prayer **as a WAY of life**. The **Turning point** in The LORD’s prayer is **“THY WILL”** and offers an important **clue to God’s heart**.

(Optional) (other verses: 34:17, 66:17-20, 120:1, Isaiah 65:24, Jeremiah 29:12, John 9:31, 1 Peter 3:12)

(Optional)-Jesus explains how not to pray in Matthew 6: 5-11

“When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. **6**But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

7“When you pray, don’t babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. **8**Don’t be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!

(Optional)9“And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. **10**For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

(optional) Can you see the Triune God here; God the father, creator and provider; the Son who is the atonement for our sins; the Spirit who gives us power to resist and to give strength.

(optional) **I can’t focus**

- My mind wanders too much.
- I’m too busy.
- It requires too much of my time to be effective

Story: Older daughter wanted a car at 16. Kept asking, 16th birthday rolled around by no car. Did not feel she was ready for the responsibility. Got a job –good grades- good schedule year later got her the car.

God wants us to thrive, but according to His will and His timing. Our Heavenly Dad will not give us everything we want – he loves us too much – He has our best interest. Our prayers are ALWAYS heard, answered according his will even if the answer is **NOT YET, ALIGNMENT NEEDED or something completely different**

Quote: *any concern too small to be turned into prayer is too small to be made into a burden.*
Corie Ten Boom