

Midweek Bible Study

Luke 11:1-13 - Jesus' Instructions for Prayer

General outline:

1. The Content and Order of prayer 11:1-4

- a. Jesus' own example provoking lessons on prayer
- b. 1st petition: Make God's name holy
- c. 2nd petition: Saving acts in Christ to expand
- d. 3rd petition: Provide for our needs
- e. 4th petition: Forgive us of our sins
- f. 5th petition: Keep us from temptation

2. Two Encouragements to pray: Better than a friend and father 11:5-9, 11-13

- a. Encouragement 1: Your heavenly Father is unlike shameless friends
 - i. Majority view: be like asking friend – persistent or shameless of hour
 - ii. Minority view: the sleepy friend is shameless disregarding hospitable norms
- b. Encouragement 2: Your heavenly Father is better than any earthly father
 - i. Earthly fathers who are comparatively evil in view of God give good gifts to sons
 - ii. How much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts of the Spirit to his spiritual children?

3. A Promise in Prayer

- a. Anyone asking or seeking or knocking will have an answer
- b. What is the point of promises?
 - i. Our own sense of unworthiness does not keep us from God
 - ii. Promises are meant to be prayed back to him
 - iii. William Gurnall: *Prayer is nothing but promises reversed, or God's word formed into argument, and retorted by faith upon God again*"

4. Summary: How ought we to pray? 1) With God-designed prayers; 2) With encouragement on the goodness of God to hear us; and 3) With his promises at hand.

