

## TEACH US TO PRAY // Luke 11:1-4

*Morning message from the series, The Gospel of Luke*

Why don't people pray? Many don't see the need for prayer; many don't make time for it. Often, many have never been taught to pray. In this passage, Jesus is responding to his disciples, who have asked him to teach them to pray. But Jesus is not simply giving a prayer to pray—he is providing a framework to hang your prayer life on. He models five petitions in this prayer:

### 1. Jesus teaches us to make God and His glory the center of our attention.

*"Father, hallowed be your name"*

God wants to be the father none of us has ever had. We approach him not only as creator, but as father because those who are in Christ have been adopted as his children. For his name to be hallowed means that it is received as holy, set apart, and his reputation is extended.

### 2. Jesus teaches us to make God's will the first desire of our hearts.

*"Your kingdom come"*

All earthly kingdoms will be flipped upside down when Christ's kingdom is consummated. The purpose of this prayer is not to make God do our will, but to bring our will into line with his will.

### 3. Jesus teaches us to make God's grace the only true need in our lives.

*"Give us each day our daily bread"*

We live dependent lives; we need to be under the good hand of grace. This prayer encompasses not only physical needs but all needs—spiritual, emotional, etc. We should pray beyond the scope of our needs—we should ask of God because he is a good father who blesses his children.

### 4. Jesus teaches us to make God's gospel the means of healing our relationships.

*"and forgive us our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us"*

Sin breaks the fellowship Christians have with God, but not their relationship with him. He is faithful to forgive us when we confess our sins (1 Jn. 1:9). This forgiveness from God is translated into our forgiveness of other people (Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13)—the forgiven become the forgiving. We must be consistent conduits of forgiveness.

### 5. Jesus teaches us to make God's word the guidance for our spiritual safety.

*"and lead us not into temptation"*

Temptation is a daily threat. Left to our own devices, temptation will find us and we will find it. We must ask God to protect us from ourselves. This is not something we can do in our own strength—the way of escape is provided by God.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What hinders us most in our prayer life? Unbelief? Not making the time? Or feeling like we don't know how or what to pray?
2. Is the order of this prayer significant? Does it matter that we address the God-centered aspects first and then the man-centered? Why?
3. Is there an aspect of this prayer that we most need to be strengthened by? Do we need a clearer vision of God's holiness or the priority of his kingdom? Do we need to be reminded of our dependence and his provision? Is there a relationship that needs the translation of forgiveness? Do we need protection from a particular temptation?