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## Luke 11:1-26

And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. <sup>2</sup> And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. <sup>3</sup> Give us day by day our daily bread. <sup>4</sup> And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. <sup>5</sup> And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; <sup>6</sup> For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? <sup>7</sup> And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. <sup>8</sup> I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. <sup>9</sup> And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. <sup>10</sup> For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. <sup>11</sup> If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? <sup>12</sup> Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

<sup>14</sup> And he was casting out a devil, and it was dumb. And it came to pass, when the devil was gone out, the dumb spake; and the people wondered. <sup>15</sup> But some of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils. <sup>16</sup> And others, tempting him, sought of him a sign from heaven. <sup>17</sup> But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth. <sup>18</sup> If Satan also be divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand? because ye say that I cast out devils through Beelzebub. <sup>19</sup> And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your sons cast them out? therefore shall they be your judges. <sup>20</sup> But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you. <sup>21</sup> When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: <sup>22</sup> But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils. <sup>23</sup> He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth. <sup>24</sup> When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. <sup>25</sup> And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. <sup>26</sup> Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first.

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Here in Luke 11 we find a very poignant prayer Christ gave as an example. I remember quoting it many times in Church and even at school. My, how times have changed. It serves as a model for us follow

and not just repeat, for prayers should come from the heart with sincerity, humbleness, thankfulness, and at times brokenness. We see these characteristics in the Lord's Prayer. This prayer is also recorded in Matthew 6.

Firstly we see God being praised and the one praying acknowledging who He is praying to. He is, our holy and heavenly Father. This puts it in proper perspective that we are coming before the throne of mercy and grace. God is not our 'buddy' or 'big guy in the sky', He is the most high and we should reverence Him as such. It is also part of the prayer that we come to him seeking His will, not ours.

Next, we see the acknowledgement of who sustains us which is humbling and instills thankfulness. When you look around you there are so many that feel that what they have is solely on their own merit. Maybe they have worked really hard at it but it is quite arrogant not to recognize that without God we could do nothing. In **Acts 17:28** Paul said "For in him we live, and move, and have our being" and in **James 1:17** we read "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights...". It is very much a slap in the face of God for His creation to deny or concede this undeniable fact (**Rom 1:19-20**) In the house Heather, Samuel, and I lived in, in Kentucky, I planted several fruit trees. Like with so many fruit trees I'd seen though they may have borne fruit one or two years and then died out from some disease or from insects. I remember praying that whoever would be living there when the trees were old enough to bear that they would bear many years with much fruit. Praise God they are bearing much fruit through several years and the partakers of that fruit are my parents. Little did I know they would wind up buying our house although they already had a much nicer house just down the road. I'm very thankful as the apple, pear, hazelnut, and mulberry trees as well as the blueberry bush Heather planted are all producing lots of fruit.

In verse 4 we are told that we should not only ask forgiveness of our own sins but we should forgive others. I've heard it said many times that we should keep short account with God. David realized that God would even refuse to hear our prayer if we regarded iniquity in our heart (**Psa 66:18**). We should also remember that as God's forgiveness is important to us God expects us to do likewise. **Mar 11:25-26** **And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.** <sup>26</sup> **But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.**

The last part of the prayer "And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil" is our call to God in helping us to avoid temptation and for delivery out of the snare of the tempter. Satan is a liar, He is powerful, and cunning. We need not fear though because our God is greater. **1Jo 4:4** **Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world**

The preceding verses (5-13) Jesus is illustrating that God is loving, kind and caring. We simply need to believe that God can and will hear our prayer and meet our needs. Isn't it comforting to know we have such a wonderful and mighty God, who's not far from us, and we can go to anytime.

In verse 14 we read of a man with a devil (evil spirit) that made him unable to speak. In today's rational, where science has taken the place of God, it doesn't seem rational to think an evil spirit can cause a physical ailment but here we see it recorded in God's Word. Modern medicine has done a lot of good

but they totally overlook the spiritual. Even the knowledge they've gained is by the grace of God but they fail to acknowledge Him. Reading through to verse 26 the focus isn't on the man who was healed but rather the debate the people had on how Jesus was able to cast out the devil and give the man back his ability to speak. Some wondered, some said Jesus did it through Beelzebub the chief of the devils, some asked for sign. Jesus questions their logic by basically, and I'm paraphrasing, how do you think, and why would you think, Satan's kingdom would fight against itself to its own destruction? Satan is a fool but certainly wants to win, thank God he will not. The name Beelzebub, chief of the devils, is another name for Satan. Its origin most likely comes from the OT name in 2 Kings for Baal-Zebub, the fly-lord, the god of the Philistines at Ekron. This name translates to 'Lord of the flies' or 'dung god'. In verse 20 Jesus makes it very clear that this is by the hand of God and certainly not the fly-god. The people would be wise to recognize it which should also lead them to the reality that Jesus is The Promised Messiah, The Son of God.

The more I study this account (vs 14-26) I see it all hinges on verse 20 with Jesus urging them to see the truth that God in the flesh has come to deliver. The account he gives is of one man who has a devil cast out only to return with others ending in a worse state. I believe it also applies to the nation of Israel as well. Their promised Messiah has come and they've refused to accept Him for who He is. Despite the scriptures that testify, despite the fulfilled prophecy, and despite the power they've witnessed, they still refuse to hear and see. Through their own arrogance and pride they will die and go to hell holding fast to their belief that they can keep the law and save their self.

This passage reminds me of Jesus' discussion with the Jewish religious leaders in Matthew 8. If anyone knew the scriptures it would be them but their perversion of it kept them from seeing the truth.

**Joh 8:45-51** And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. <sup>46</sup> Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? <sup>47</sup> He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God. <sup>48</sup> Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil? <sup>49</sup> Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me. <sup>50</sup> And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth. <sup>51</sup> Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.

Praise God we also find these verses in the same chapter

**Joh 8:31-32** Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; <sup>32</sup> And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

#### Other Prayers in the Bible

- **Moses' Prayer for Israel in the Wilderness** (Exodus 32:9-14)
- **Abraham's Prayer for Sodom** (Genesis 18:16-33)
- **David's Prayer for Pardon and Confession of Sin** (Psalm 51)

- **David's Prayer at the End of Life** (1 Chronicles 29:9-20)
- **Hezekiah's Petitions for Deliverance and Healing** (2 Kings 19:14-19; 20:1-7)
- **David's Psalm of Surrender** (Psalm 139)
- **Daniel's Confession on Behalf of His People** (Daniel 9:1-19)
- **Nehemiah's Prayer for Success** (Nehemiah 1:1-2:9).
- **Jesus' Prayer of Submission at Gethsemane** (Luke 22:39-46)
- **Paul's Prayers for the Ephesian Believers** (Ephesians 1:15-23; 3:14-21)



*As always I hope you enjoyed the lesson, may God bless you and your families. Please feel free to share it with others.*