

Jesus on Prayer: Two Parables on Prayer

A **parable** is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. Jesus used parables a great deal in the latter part of his earthly ministry. In this session, we are going to look at two of His parables on prayer, then give a summary of the doctrine therein.

Parable #1 Luke 11: 1, 5-13, The Importunate Friend

v 1 The Occasion for the Parable: “ Lord, teach us _____, NOT _____.

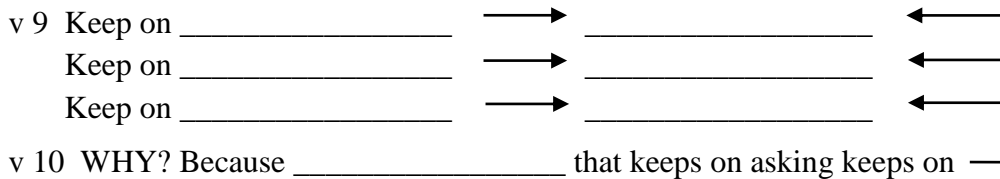
v 5-8 The Parable (the earthly story)

v 8 The Reason the Bedded-Friend responds to the midnight request:

because of the _____*, that is the _____ of the Requester.

*ανααιδειαν / anaideian = shamelessness, troublesomeness (only here in the N. T.)

v 9-10 The Application of the Parable by Jesus



v 11-13 The Teaching of the Parable Illustrated by Jesus

v 11, 12 An earthly father in response to a son’s request for:

- bread (food), would not give him a stone... that is, something _____!
- fish, would not give him a serpent... that is, something _____!
- egg, would give him a scorpion... that is, something _____!

v 13 **CONTRAST** the heavenly Father’s ANSWERS TO PRAYER!

- Your best friend may grant your request to get you off of his back: NOT GOD!
- You as an earthly father would not answer your child’s request with something useless or harmful: HOW MUCH WISER IS OUR HEAVENLY FATHER IN ANSWERING YOUR PRAYER REQUESTS!

Major Points of this Parable

- We are to keep on in prayer... to be _____.
- We are not to ask for the Holy Spirit nor were they: but importunity in prayer will lead to the Holy Spirit’s discernment as it relates to the requests.
- Why? Because prayer is a Divine-designed means of communication between God and His children.

Parable #2 Luke 18:1-8, The Unjust Judge

v 1 The Purpose of the Parable Stated (the context is the Olivet Discourse, the Great Tribulation)
- THAT MEN OUGHT ALWAYS TO PRAY (not to faint)

v 2-5 The Parable (the earthly story)

v 5 Why did the unjust judge vindicate her? Because of her _____.
GOD IS TO BE CONTRASTED WITH THE UNJUST JUDGE.

v 6-8 The Point & Application of the Parable

THE APPLICATION IN CONTEXT: God will avenge tribulation saints _____.

SPECIAL ADDED APPLICATION BY JESUS

v 8b AT THE SECOND ADVENT, WILL CHRIST FIND (THE) FAITH ON THE EARTH?
(cmp. Jude :17-18; 2Pet. 3:2-4)

Conclusion

Both parables teach persistence in prayer; believers are to keep on asking the Father for their felt needs.

Doctrinal Points

1. As God's child, the believer is to keep on praying (asking, seeking, knocking): the Christian life is so designed that we cannot live apart from His _____. We ask because he told us to!
2. Prayer is specific asking.
3. The parables of Luke 11 & 18 both emphasize _____ in the sense of _____ to pray.
4. The believer who is _____ to pray gives practical recognition of the fact that prayer is an indispensable resource in Phase #2 Christianity.
5. Both parables in Luke contrast the major characters and their responses to those of God, our heavenly Father. He is not like they!
6. God always answers our prayers (requests) out of His infinite wisdom and love, hence for our good.
7. Prayer is an educatory avenue of communication designed by God for the believer in Phase # 2.
8. Prayer is not a futile effort in trying to get things from a reluctant God nor is it an exercise to get His attention: prayer is a means of more fully entering into His will and goodness, hence, we as believers ought always to pray. 1Thess. 5:17; Phil. 4:6.