

J.J.

PERSISTENT PRAYER

Luke 11:1-13

INTRODUCTION :

TODAY, WE ARE GOING TO STUDY ABOUT PRAYER AGAIN.

This is one of my favourite topics to preach. It's because prayer is the time we go into the presence of God our Father... that in itself is awesome!

Last week, we've concluded the Keys to Blessing and I've shared with you the Master Key is to God's Blessings is God's Presence... and this is the reason why prayer for me is so important because I am getting the greatest blessing ... GOD HIMSELF.

This will be a 2-part study... one about persistent prayer and next week by God's grace will talk about persevering prayer.

Difference between persistence and perseverance :

- **Persistence is a constant action.** It's almost like stubborn.

Illustration : When my daughter Rebecca was around 5 or 6 years old, we would do a lot of walking in the mall. She doesn't have any stroller anymore and she will get tired. What she will do is she will run in front of me and put her arms up and jump and down saying "Dad, carry. Carry me please." I will ignore her but she will just keep on walking backwards and keep saying, "Dad, carry. Carry please." She will not stop until I carry her. That's persistence. It's a constant action.

- **Perseverance is an enduring action.**

Illustration : You already know that by God's grace, Zak is married already. He fell in love with this girl the moment he saw her in his first year of university. He prayed to God about her. He was honest to her about how he felt. There were several times that his heart got broken. But he was continuously praying about the situation. And I was really getting mad at him already and told him to stop chasing her and maybe that's why God is not showing you another person. Then he courted her again and she said, "no" already. I told him to stop but he told me, "Dad, I'll give it one more try." Little did we know that Louisa has already fallen for Zak but she thought Zak would not court her again because she already said, "no." Now they are married. They are like glue when their together and Louisa calls Zak, Mr. Handsome. That's perseverance.

Today, we'll talk about Persistent prayer

Persistent Prayer plays an important role to a Christian.

Luke 11: One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

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

*“Father,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.
3 Give us each day our daily bread.
4 Forgive us our sins,
for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.
And lead us not into temptation.”*

*5 Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; 6 a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ 7 And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ 8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.
9 “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.
11 “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”*

PRAY

Background :

We have to remember that the disciples were asking our Lord Jesus.

“Lord, teach us to pray,

The Lord was teaching our disciples what to pray for and how to pray.-

*“Father,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.
3 Give us each day our daily bread.
4 Forgive us our sins,
for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.
And lead us not into temptation.”*

The book of Matthew has this also and I taught about this with the title “Master’s Degree in Prayer”. In that preaching based on Matthew 6:5-15, you can see how our Lord Jesus taught us, the right attitude, approach and appeal in praying which we talked in detail earlier part of this year.

Etymology : pray “proseuchomai” this means go near to God.

QUOTE : PRAYING IS GOING NEAR TO GOD!

In the same view here in Luke which we can also see in Matthew, our Lord said,
"When you pray,
Our Lord did not say, "If" but "when". This means, the Lord expects His children to pray.

In fact, the Bible tells us that we should always be praying.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

Praying without ceasing is an awareness of God's presence in your life.

Application : Show me a Christian who is spiritually dry and I can trace that to two things : lack of prayer and lack of study of God's Word. Why? It's because that person is looking to quench their thirst from different wells when the promise of Jesus Christ *is "Anyone who is thirsty, come to me... rivers of living waters will flow from within them. (John 7:37-38)"*

Illustration : One of my workmates has this summer car which is vintage that still has the bench as a seat. I remember the story of the wife who was riding with her husband and looking out the window and said to her husband, "Before when we are on a road trip, your arms would be constantly around me while you're driving and I even fell asleep on your shoulders. What happened?" The husband looked at the wife lovingly and replied, "Guess who moved?"

Now the good thing about the view in Luke, our Lord Jesus Christ teaches us how we should be persistent in our praying. Now it is important for us to pray persistently specially when we need help and that's what we are going to discuss today from God's Word by God's grace.

I. PRAY BOLDLY.

5 Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; 6 a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.'

Cultural background :

1. There was no store at night then.
2. There was no TV then. When sunset comes, it's basically dinner, go to sleep since they have to wake up at sunrise to go to work.

Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight
Our Lord is saying here, any time is the proper time to pray.

Now look at what the friend is asking for :

Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; 6 a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.'

Background :

- It's not unusual that some people will arrive from a long journey at night
- Just like us Filipinos, hospitality was very important to them.

- He was asking for three loaves of bread...(the loaf then was not our loaf of bread today)
The loaf was like three pita breads that he wants to feed a friend.
- The three pita breads were enough for dinner for this friend.
-

This is not an emergency where somebody was sick or dying or they were being robbed or the house was on fire.

Application : Our Lord is telling us **there is no such thing as small or big need that we shouldn't come to God.**

God never says to us, "What are you praying about? That's so small compared to the problems of the world."

Illustration : One time in the Philippines, I went to a dentist and he learned I was a pastor. While he was cleaning my teeth and I can't speak, he was trying to humble-brag in such a way that he doesn't pray to God. His reason for not praying is because he thinks his problems are so small compared to the problems of the world and he doesn't want to disturb God with his small problems.

Isn't that what our Lord said to pray about :

3 Give us each day our daily bread.

God is saying to pray for everything, even our daily needs.

QUOTE : PRAYING ACKNOWLEDGES OUR DEPENDENCE ON GOD.

Isn't that what our Lord said,

John 15: 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

The problem with some people, they only call unto God when things get worse.

Quote : Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire? - Corrie Ten Boom

This is the reason why I always advocate, encourage, implore, plead unto you to start your day by reading God's Word and by praying.

II. PRAY WITH AUDACITY

"Audacity" – shameless or the nerve that he should ask such a thing.

We have a term in tagalog for that... KAPALMUKS!

7 And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' 8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

Background : You have to remember their houses doesn't have any rooms. It's just like in the Philippines where the bed is already in the living room and in the kitchen. So if his friend stands up, to get somethings in the kitchen, he will be waking up the whole household.

So for the friend to go to his neighbor friend at midnight to just ask for three pieces of bread (Not an emergency or anything) is "kapalmuks"

Illustration : My wife will always say these to my kids, "Ang nahihiya nagugutom."

One time, when were at Jollibee, we ordered chicken and one of the orders for the chicken was for 2 instead of 1. The guy only punched for 1 but we wanted 2. I would have let it pass since we didn't pay extra anyway. But my wife would still go to the counter and say we ordered for qty 2 and you only punched for qty 1.

This is the reason during these times, my kids would say, "I wish mom was here because she never settles."

Here's the thing, "Never settle when it comes to praying. It shows your faith that God will answer your prayers."

There are so many instances in the Bible that God is amazed with the shamelessness in approaching Him.

Illustration 1 : The Wedding at Cana

Here our Lord was enjoying the wedding. By no fault of God and because of lack of preparation, wine ran out. It will embarrass the couple and Jesus' mother Mary approached His son.

John 2: 3 When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." 4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come."

And what did Mary say?

5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

What was the result because the mother of Jesus was "kapalmuks".

Jesus did not only do his first miracle of turning to wine but even gave the best wine!

Remember, this is what happens when you have "kapalmuks" when praying to our Lord. God gives you the best!

Illustration 2 : The Bleeding woman in Luke 8

She was menstruating for twelve years and had already spent everything with doctors and yet she's not healed but when she touched Jesus clothes, she got healed.

This is what Jesus said,

Luke 8 : 45 And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!" 46 But Jesus said, "Someone touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me."

Why it had to take some audacity or kapalmuks from the woman to approach Jesus?

She was bleeding and during that time you are considered unclean. When people even touch you they will become unclean. (Leviticus 15:19-33) She doesn't care.

What was the result of her audacity?

⁴⁸And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

This is what our Lord is saying when he said,

.⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

You want to see God's power in your life? Pray audaciously.

Remember our Lord is a master teacher and he is teaching his disciples to pray. And one of the techniques to emphasize something is the use of opposites.

⁷ And suppose the one inside answers, "Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything."

What our Lord Jesus is saying, "God is not man that you will disturb Him when you pray. He never falls asleep or He never gets tired of you asking for the same thing over and over again."

Psalm 121

¹ I will lift up my eyes to the hills—

From whence comes my help?

² My help comes from the Lord,

Who made heaven and earth.

³ He will not allow your foot to be moved;

He who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴ Behold, He who keeps Israel

Shall neither slumber nor sleep.

Illustration : I remember my mom who will be so tired from work and she likes to sleep and take long naps during weekends which was precious to her. When we would wake her up for anything as children, she would really get upset. That's understandable. But not God, he doesn't take naps. He doesn't sleep. He doesn't get tired and as His children we can go to Him anytime with anything.

III. PRAY WITH INTENSITY

⁹ "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

Do you see the persistent prayer here?

It grows in intensity.

Can I tell you a secret when I pray?

Sometimes, when I pray and it becomes so intense, I'm kneeling before the Lord at the side of my bed and I'm just banging on the bed because that's what's inside my heart.

Some people when they pray, they easily give up when they don't get an immediate answer to their prayers. And I told you last time, they think "It's God's will" and then give up already when it comes to praying.

But our Lord shows us the levels :

Level 1 : Asking

Level 2 : Seeking

Level 3 : Knocking

You see the audacity and intensity here on the knocking on the door part.

Specially when you know you when there's a promise in Scripture connected with it.

You might ask me, "Pastor, why doesn't God answer immediately." Sometimes he says, "Yes". Sometimes, He says "No" because He has a better plan or sometimes He says, "Wait" But why make us wait. **It's because God is more interested in your character than your comfort or happiness. And praying builds faith...which is the most important part of our character.**

Quotes :

"When you pray, you literally can go to God and say what's on your heart and claim His promise. In fact, you can demand that He be faithful to His promise." ... "Sue Him for it. Sue Him for it." - Thomas Goodwin

"Don't leave Him alone. Pester Him with His own promise. Tell Him what He has said He's going to do. Quote the Scripture to Him," – Martin Lloyd Jones

Biblical Illustration : The Canaanite Woman in Matthew 15

The story shows that Jesus withdrew to that place because He wanted to rest and here is a woman, not even a Jew, who had the "kapalmuks" to barge in and plead in behalf of her daughter who was being possessed by a demon. She was ignored, she kept on shouting. The disciples wanted her to go away, she went nearer to Jesus. She was seemingly insulted and even called a dog and she continued asking. What was the result?

Matthew 15: 28 Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire."

QUOTE :

You want to see God perform a miracle in your life?

Pray boldly! Pray with audacity! Pray with intensity!

Have you seen how the Koreans prayed? Have you seen how the first church prayed? Have you seen how Hannah prayed? Elijah? The Psalms?

Note : We were raised to be timid and repetitive in our prayers.

2 Timothy 1:7 God did not give us a spirit of timidity....

PRAY PERSISTENTLY

This is why James said,

James 4:2... Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it.

Of course, what James said, just as long you are asking with the right motives and according to His promise.

CONCLUSION :

Why can you pray boldly, and with audacity and with intensity anytime for anything?

Suppose you have a friend,

It's because we have a relationship with Him.

Jesus calls His disciples friend.

John 15: 5 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

We can also pray boldly, because as our Lord Jesus said, He is OUR FATHER.

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

"Father,

11 "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The reason why God is asking us to be persistent in praying, it's because HE IS FATHER AND HE IS A GOOD GOOD FATHER.

Now the question is? Do you have relationship with God?

How can we have a relationship with God as our Father? Evangelistic

The Bible says :

John 1: 12 Yet to all who did receive Him (Jesus), to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

ALL GLORY TO OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

S.G.D.