

PRAYER TEMPLATE

Luke 11:1-13
Yeshua §108

- Part 1. The Coming of the King
- Part 2. The Authentication of the King
- Part 3. The Controversy over the King
- Part 4. The Training of the Twelve by the King
- Part 5. **The Opposition to the King**
 - > **Instruction in Prayer**
- Part 6. The Preparation of the Disciples by the King
- Part 7. The Official Presentation of the King
- Part 8. The Preparation for the Death of the King
- Part 9. The Trial of the King:
- Part 10. The Death of the King
- Part 11. The Resurrection and the Ascension of the King
- Part 12. The Sequels

SETTING (11:1)

LUKE 11:1 (ESV)

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”

Jesus is in the final six months of His earthly ministry traveling to the towns and villages His disciples discovered were receptive to Him (Luke 10:1-12). Undoubtedly the disciples frequently observed Jesus praying. In the Sermon on the Mount, given almost three years earlier, Jesus taught His initial group of disciples a template for prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). Perhaps on this occasion, it was a disciple recently joined to Jesus who asked Jesus to teach them to pray.

It isn't as if the disciples didn't pray. They grew up praying in their homes and in their synagogues. But their prayers were memorized prayers from prayer books, not extemporaneous¹ prayers like those of Jesus.

A PATTERN FOR PRAYER (11:2-4)

In verses 2-4, Jesus gives His disciples a template, a pattern for prayer. It was not meant to be a rote prayer, but an outline to guide their praying.

LUKE 11:2-4 (ESV)

And he said to them, “When you pray, say:

“Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

¹ Spoken or done without preparation.

Give us each day our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.
And lead us not into temptation.”

Jesus' pattern for prayer is this²:

- **Address God the Father**
- **Worship God (to hallow = to reverence God as holy)**
- **Pray for the Kingdom Program**
- **Pray for daily needs**
- **Confess sins**
- **Pray about spiritual warfare**

We will reflect on these in a moment, but having given this pattern for prayer, Jesus told a story to encourage His disciples to be persistent in prayer.

THOSE WHO PERSIST RECEIVE (11:5-10)

LUKE 11:5-10 (ESV)

And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything?’ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

Refrigeration, preservatives and canned goods make it difficult for us to relate to this scenario. People living in cultures without preservatives and refrigerators generally do not store much food. They purchase it daily in the marketplace and

² Adapted from Arnold Fruchtenbaum's *Life of the Messiah* teaching materials.

bake what is needed for the day. It would not be unusual to have little food in the house at the end of the day.

But such a situation puts a family in a predicament if unexpected guests arrive in the middle of the night. Culturally they are obligated to provide hospitality for their guests including food and lodging. To fail to do so would bring shame upon the family.

The hero of the story is the “impudent”³ man who keeps knocking until he gets some food for his guests. It is the right thing to do. Even his disgruntled neighbor would agree.

The point of the story and Jesus’ application is that the disciples are to persist in prayer: they are to keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on knocking because those who persist receive.

YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER WANTS TO GIVE YOU GOOD GIFTS (11:11-13)

What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

These final sayings are meant to encourage the disciples that even though prayer requires persistence, it’s not because God is reluctant. Truth is, their heavenly Father wants to give them good things. And what could be better than the indwelling Holy Spirit whom the Father is going to give them on the Feast of Pentecost some 5 or 6 months thence? Many of these disciples experienced the temporary indwelling of the Spirit on their survey trip. They would be especially encouraged that the Spirit’s indwelling would soon be permanent.

REFLECTIONS ON JESUS’ PATTERN FOR PRAYER

Jesus’ pattern for prayer is for us today. Here are a few things it makes me think about.

We really should address our heavenly Father:

“Father,

³ Also translated “shamelessness” because the man is not ashamed of his behavior because it is for a good cause.

...you are speaking to your heavenly Father Who knows you intimately and loves you unconditionally.

hallowed be your name.

...take the time to “hallow” God’s name, that is, give God the glory due Him for His character and His works in creation and in salvation.

Your kingdom come.

...align or realign your life purpose with your heavenly Father. This is an important part of our daily dying to ourselves to live for God’s Kingdom. Here, we pray God uses us in our sphere of influence to bring His kingdom: where there is unrighteousness, to bring righteousness. Where there is injustice, to bring justice. Where there is deceit, to bring truth. Where there is a lack of love, to bring love.

Here is where we pray for the ministries of our Church and of Christian ministries like Ramona Pregnancy Care Clinic, Voice of the Martyrs, Operation Christmas Child. Here is where we pray for missions and our part in reaching unreached people groups and sending out missionaries.

Give us each day our daily bread,

...we thank our Heavenly Father for His provision for our lives.

and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

...this is how we stay in fellowship with our Heavenly Father – through confession of sin (1 John 1:9).

...this is how we love others – by keeping short accounts and trusting God that in the end, He guarantees justice will prevail (Romans 12:19).

And lead us not into temptation.”

...this is asking God to guide and protect us from those things that would entice/tempt us to sin against Him.

Jesus really emphasized persistence: we need to keep seeking, keep asking, keeping knocking. Persistence requires us to be thoughtful about what we ask. If we are going to repeatedly ask God for something, we need to be clear about what we are asking and we will want to be confident it’s in line with His will. We

know we are in His will when we pray according to His Word. Persistence calls us to pray thoughtfully.