A Prayer for Filling February 9, 2020

*Luke 11:5-13 Series: Seeking the Face of God*

Heaven is full of answers to prayers for which no one ever bothered to ask. – Billy Graham

Intro: Learning how to approach God in prayer.

1. God invites us to pray shamelessly.
2. Shameless prayer is bold.

v. 5 *go to him at midnight*

v. 7 *Do not bother me; the door is now shut …*

v. 7 *and my children are with me in bed*

Hebrews 4:16 *Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

1. The alternative to shameless prayer is complacency.

v. 6 *a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him*

Genesis 18:32 *Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”*

1. Shameless prayer glorifies God.

v. 8 *because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs*

* What attitudes and values keep us from praying shamelessly?
* Why does God invite us to pray shamelessly?
* What’s the difference between the content and attitude of a shameless prayer and a polite prayer?
1. God invites us to pray persistently.
2. Persistent prayer is a lifestyle.

v. 9 *ask … seek … knock*

v. 10 *everyone who asks … the one who seeks … the one who knocks*

1. Persistent prayer demonstrates trust.

Deuteronomy 4:29 *But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.*

Jeremiah 29:13 *You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.*

Luke 18:1 *And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.*

1. God answers persistent prayer.

v. 9 *and it will be given to you … and you will find … and it will be opened to you*

v. 10 *receives … finds … it will be opened*

* What’s the difference between a flippant prayer and a persistent prayer?
* Why does God want us to pray persistently? i.e. How does God change us and our prayers as we continue to pray about something?
1. God invites us to pray confidently.
2. God always gives good gifts.

v. 11 *What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent …?*

v. 12 *… or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?*

Time spent in prayer is always rewarded.

1. God’s greatest gift is more of Himself.

v. 13 *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!*

Acts 4:31 *And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.*

Galatians 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

* Why are we tempted to think that time spent in prayer is a waste or at least less important than other things?
* Does Jesus promise that if we ask for a fish or an egg, we will always get a fish or an egg? What does He promise? Why?
* Why is God’s greatest gift more of Himself? What does a prayer for ‘more of God’ look like?
* What are some shameless prayers that your life group could be asking for?

Take time to pray shameless prayers for your group and for more of God and more of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in each other’s lives.

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Judges 13:1-8.

Notes