

Sunday 25th June 2023

Becoming More Like Jesus: Part 3

Text: Luke 11:1-13 NIV

Learning from His prayer life.

In Part 2 last week, we saw how we can add value to other people. We cannot add value if we don't value people. Jesus valued everyone; He valued people who were not valued in the society.

In John chapter 9 we saw how Jesus valued a man who was born blind. According to the culture of that community at that time, this man was not fit to be part of that community just because he was born blind.

We saw Jesus reaching out to a Samaritan woman at the well whom other Jews would never have spoken to.

He valued a woman caught in adultery whom the law said should be stoned, and so many other examples in the Bible.

If we want to be more like Jesus, we must value people so that we can add value to their lives, we must value ourselves too.

Someone once said, “*if your presence doesn't add value, your absence won't make a difference.*” If we want to make a difference in a society that is changing rapidly, we must value people. That includes people who don't look like me, act like me, think like me or even share common beliefs like as me.

Becoming more like Christ: Part 3,

- We want to see how his (Jesus) prayer life impacted His disciples.
- **Luke 11:1-13.**
- As you can see, this is a familiar and inspiring passage about prayer.

- When it comes to prayer, Jesus on numerous occasions appears as a man of prayer. Luke 5:16 shows how Jesus “often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.” Luke 6:12 says, “One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray ...”

- In Matthew 19:13, we read, “Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them.”
In John 17:9 we read, “I [Jesus] pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given Me, for they are Yours.”

- Jesus continues to pray in Luke 11, *Verse 1*,
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.”

- The disciples were so amazed at Jesus' prayer life, such that they asked Him to teach them how to pray. There's much more to learn from this passage beyond the significant Lord's Prayer that follows it.

From this verse we can see that;

1. Jesus modeled simple prayer;

The disciples watched His prayer life and saw something special. Yes, John in his ministry put a strong focus on prayer, but Jesus modeled simple prayer life.

a) Verse 2-4. Jesus gave his disciples a simple way to look at prayer. (Lord's Prayer).
.”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.

Jesus' desire is not about how long have you been fasting on this mountain, but how your relationship with your Father is, because if your relationship with your Father is right, your conversation with him becomes simple. prayer becomes much easier when it's built on a relationship.

- They say that the Western Wall is a must-see attraction for any visitor to Israel. Not only to witness a structure that has stood for over 2,000 years, but to see the thousands of people who come every day to pray at this important site. If your relationship with God is not right, you can go to face this wall many times, but come back the same.



c) If we want to be more like Jesus, our Prayer life should be simple, but most importantly, it should reflect our relationship with God, because Prayer, helps us to develop that relationship, just like our parents here on earth, our Heavenly Father wants to hear from us and talk to us.

2) Jesus was persistent in his prayer life.

Verse 6-8;

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. ‘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.

a) We see Jesus praying even in Gethsemane (Luke 22:39-46) He withdrew a bout a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed. (verse 41). Even on the cross, Jesus was still praying (Luke 23:34, 46).

b) Jesus encouraged his disciples to be persistent in prayer, He continued in verse 9 -10; *“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.*

c) Seeking and knocking indicate persistence. While we might look for something briefly and then give up if we don't find it, seeking implies an ongoing, perhaps lengthy search. Similarly, we don't usually knock by softly tapping a door just once and then leaving if there's no answer; we wait around and see if anyone will respond.

Conclusion: Jesus prayed with an expectation.

- **Verse 11-13;** “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!”