

Luke
See Jesus
How Should We Pray?
Luke 10:38 – 11:4

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Jan. 30, 2022

The Lord's Prayer in Luke 11 is still part of the answer to Martha's problem at the end of Luke 10 where she is so anxious and troubled about so many things.

Sitting at His feet to hear His Word is part of the answer to what we need most. The second part is slowing down and taking time to talk to Him in prayer. We hear His Word and pray to Him in light of His Word.

I. You'll Need to Submit to Something Bigger than Your Own "Little Kingdom"

Luke 11:2 "And He said to them, 'When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come...'"

Jesus says that our first priority should be that God's name be hallowed and His kingdom be advanced. In other words, that God would be glorified and seen as God!

The kingdom of God has to be understood as something that's already here, but not yet fully present. The kingdom of God was inaugurated when Jesus took on flesh and stepped into this world, but it won't be fully consummated until He returns again as King of kings and Lord of lords!

Revelation 11:15 "...the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

We have to guard against the temptation of trying to bring in the kingdom of God with human effort. The kingdom of God is not of this world and cannot be manufactured by human efforts.

When we pray "Your kingdom come," this is a prayer of surrender where we give up power and say, "God, we don't know how to fix all this, but You do! Your kingdom come. Keep doing what only You can do. Call people out of darkness into Your marvelous light. Make spiritually dead people come alive as we share the Gospel!"

That eternal focus in prayer will change how you see all the temporal things around you.

Getting reoriented to what matters most often changes what you think you need next.

II. You'll Need to Keep Seeing Your Own Sin First If You're Ever Going to Forgive the Sins of Others

Luke 11:4 "And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us..."

This is not a prayer for salvation. This is the ongoing prayer of true believers who never get over the fact that they are sinners saved by grace.

We should never stop seeing and confessing our own sin because that is what keeps us ready to forgive the sins of others against us.

Our love for others and willingness to forgive others is one of the strongest apologetics to a lost and dying world that there is a God who loves us and forgives us.

“...She wanted to see a thorough change of heart and perspective in me and she did. Not once did I point out, or even want to point out, any of her wrongdoing towards me. My mantra and prayer the whole time was to put on display the Gospel because God had so worked in my heart that I truly wanted nothing more than for the gospel to shine. And it did! When we finished talking, she looked at me and said, ‘This is an absolute miracle! People don’t change like this!’ And so I had the privilege of sharing what God had done in my life and how He is in the business of changing hearts. The relationship that we have now is amazing. And I have her respect which allows me an opportunity to continue to love her and share my faith. In short, it was all because I got out of the way and let God work His word in my life which has been so freeing! **But I had to give up my right to be right and my desire to see vengeance where I had been wronged. I also learned to see the gospel shining as far more important than how I am being perceived.**”

~ GFC member

III. You’ll Have to Trust that God is Good Even When the Answer is “No”

Martha’s request at the end of Luke 10 is “Tell my sister to help me!” Like Martha, we’re focused on changing circumstances and the people around us, when He’s most interested in changing us in the midst of those circumstances and those very people.

Jesus didn’t tell Mary to get in the kitchen and help. He told Martha what she needed to know and do to be personally transformed in the midst of those very same circumstances.

He’s all about changing us and making us more like Him, far more than changing circumstances so that we can be more comfortable the way we are.

Prayer doesn’t work when you’re only interested in using it to change circumstances and other people. But watch what happens when you say, “God, change me. Show me everything I’m not seeing about me. Give me everything I need to go through this in a way that glorifies You. Don’t remove this trial until You’ve taught me everything You want me to learn through this. Make me more like Jesus.”