

The Gospel of Luke

Lesson 21

In the first 13 verses of chapter 11, Luke notes Jesus' discourse on prayer. The disciples, having observed how often Jesus prayed, how much time He spent in prayer, and how important prayer was in his relationship to his heavenly Father, ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. Jesus' response is generally known as the Lord's Prayer: "When you pray say, 'Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.'" This prayer is recorded in a slightly different manner by Matthew in his gospel.

The prayer structurally contains three elements: adoration, confession, and supplication. In later years, the church added: "For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen." Some use the acronym "ACTS" to describe a manner of prayer that begins with "adoration" moves next to "confession" then onto "thanksgiving" and finally to "supplication."

This general guide can be helpful in developing a meaningful prayer life but should not be used as a formula or in rote fashion. Rather, it should be seen as an aid in developing an intimate relationship and dialogue with our Heavenly Father, who delights when his children approach him in prayer with praise, confession, requests and the expectation that He will listen, answer, guide and direct in such a manner as to bring glory to His Name and blessing to us.

The Rejection of Jesus on the Way to Jerusalem

1. Read Luke 11:14-26, Matthew 12:22-32 and Mark 3:20-30.
 - A. From Luke 11:14 and Matthew 12:22-23:
 - (1) What is Jesus doing?

 - (2) What is the result?

 - (3) What is the crowd's reaction?

 - B. From Luke 11:15, Matthew 12:24 and Mark 3:22:
 - (1) What groups are included in the crowd?

 - (2) Describe the nature of the charges they bring against Jesus?

C. From Luke 11:16-26, Matthew 12:25-32 and Mark 3:23-27:

- (1) What literary device does Jesus employ in answering the charges?

- (2) What are the main points of His response?

- (3) List the truths stated by Jesus that most impress you. Why are they important to you?

- (4) Who is the strong man?

- (5) Who is the stronger man?

D. From Luke 11:23 and Matthew 12:30, fill in the blanks: He who is _____ is _____, and he who _____, _____

E. Considering that Jesus, the Son of God, was charged by Jewish leaders as being possessed by Satan (Beelzebub) and casting out demons by the power of Satan, what is the crux of the matter when Jesus says, “He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters?” Is it possible to remain neutral in the battle between Jesus Christ and Satan, between good and evil? Why or why not?

F. From Luke 11:24-26, Matthew 12:31-32 and Mark 3:28-30:

(1) What are the main points of Jesus’ closing argument?

(2) What can be forgiven?

(3) What cannot be forgiven? Why?

(4) By implication, what is the stated condition or result of one who is forgiven versus one who is not forgiven? To whom does each belong?

2. Read Luke 11:27-28.
 - A. What is the declaration called out by a woman in the crowd?

 - B. What does Jesus say in response to her declaration? What is the truth that Jesus is stating? Is He against family? Why or why not?

3. Read Luke 11:29-32 and Matthew 12:38-42.
 - A. Why do you think some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, "Teacher, we want to see a miraculous sign from you"? What does this statement reveal about them?

 - B. How does Jesus answer them? What judgment does Jesus pronounce upon the people of his generation?

 - C. What desirable qualities do you notice about the men of Nineveh and the Queen of the South? What were they and what did they do?

D. By way of application, what conclusion can we draw for ourselves and our generation from this exchange between Jesus and the Pharisees and teachers of the law?

4. Read Luke 11:33-36. What point is Jesus making when He discusses the “lamp of the body” by telling the parable of light and darkness?

5. Read Luke 11:37-53.

A. Describe the six woes proclaimed by Jesus in this passage.

B. What are some worthwhile principles to apply to our own lives that come from this passage?

C. What further judgment does Jesus pronounce upon the generation of his day?

D. What are the reaction and response of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law to Jesus' words? What might have been a better response?