

“The Parables # 1”

Luke 11: 1-13 and Luke 18:1-8

Bible scholars and Theologians: Have assigned the title of (Parables of Importunity)

- Which I believe is a little misleading...
- So, in the next two week I want to look at some misconceptions we have.
- About prayer and the nature of God. Want to look at three things.

1. Why is it so difficult for most of us to find time to pray.
2. Why does it seem that some prayers are unanswered.
3. If God knows what we need, and anticipates our prayers before we ask Him, what’s the purpose of prayer?

(Read our text)

11:1-4 NKJV... ESV / NIV

- The point is His disciples saw Him pray, understood the importance!
- Could not seem to pray as Jesus did nor John the Baptist for that matter.
- Some of Jesus’s disciples came from John...
- So, Jesus gives them an illustration... **when you pray say...**
- As Jesus MO is, He gives them a parable to explain, clarify.

(Read both parables)

Explain the culture and housing... Navajo reservation (1st parable)

When you read these parables what's the first thing that comes to your mind?

What is Jesus trying to teach us? What's the overall or main theme of the parables?

Number one: Why is it so difficult for most of us to find time to pray.

- Our concept of prayer is often that it's to overcome Gods reluctance.
- See Him or envision Him as the reluctant neighbor or the unjust judge.
- So, importunity or persistence becomes our main focus... teaching and preaching.
- **I think we need to change our focus...**

Luke 11: 9, 13...

Expanded Greek Translation... The phrase and I tell you... Translates it: "As for myself, I am saying to you..."

Luke 18: 6-8...

Lloyd Ogilvie: *"The twin parables on prayer have greatly misunderstood as teaching importunity as a virtue of prayer. I believe that Jesus not only wants us to know how much greater God is than either the reluctant neighbor or the unrighteous judge, but to also realize that prayer is more than an exercise in persistence... He needs to be told of our need only once. Repeated prayer is not to remind Him, but to thank Him."*

- **God created us for Himself and given us the gift of prayer.**
- **Prayer is a dialog with a friend who longs to love us and to have us love Him**