

"The Parables # 2"

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

➤ 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. (Last Week...)
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... This is a model for us!

➤ **Number Two:** Why does it seem that some prayers are unanswered.

- In the parables Jesus's explains that all prayers are answered.
- However, some prayers are delayed until they are developed.
- God does not answer some prayers immediately because what we are asking for needs to be perfected for our good.
- **Has to do with God's timing and God's will... (Some things may not be good for us or for the best)**

Romans 5:1-5 (Read)

➤ Paul realized God's ultimate desire and our need is to know Him

Which brings us to our last question:

➤ **Number three:** If God knows what we need, and anticipates our prayers before we ask Him, what's the purpose of prayer?

Luke 11:13... *“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!”*

- More than answered prayers... God wants to give us Himself.
- Prayer prepares us!
- We are the Temple of God / Holy Spirit.

➤ *“One of the primary ways that we draw near to God is through prayer. Simply put, prayer is communication with God. It is a two-way conversation in which we not only talk to God, but we also listen and respond to Him. Guided by the Holy Spirit, prayer becomes an experience of mutual engagement with God.” (Book – Continuing Together)*

Mother Teresa of Calcutta: *“Prayer enlarges the heart until it is capable of containing God’s gift of Himself”*

John 15:7-8 *“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.” (ESV)*

Phil. 4:6-7 *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (ESV)*