

# THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

*A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God*

## *We Ought Always to Pray*

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

I want to take two passages of Luke out of sequence in our study in order to encourage us at a crucial time in the history of our church. As you are aware, the expansion project of the roads around us and the intersection has brought us also to a crossroad. Our location, and our ministry therefrom, is significantly threatened. Yet, nothing takes God by surprise and He knows the plans He has for us, plans established from the beginning of creation, plans to bless His work among us, plans for a hope and a future. It is our great privilege at this time to seek His will and to discern His mind so that we might make the decisions that will insure we remain in the context of His purpose.

### Jesus' Lessons on Prayer in Luke

- I. A Sleepy Neighbor & The Need for Bread, Luke 11:1-13
  - A. Guidance for the form of prayer
    1. The will and purposes of God
    2. Our daily needs
    3. Relationships with others and with God
  - B. The need for persistence—desperation in prayer
  - C. Asking, Seeking, Knocking—the formula for success in prayer
- II. An Unjust Judge & The Need for Protection, Luke 18:1-8
  - A. Guidance for expectant waiting on the Lord
  - B. A widow and an unjust judge
  - C. Success through persistence
  - D. God is NOT an unjust Judge
- III. Bearing Fruit that Only God Can Produce
  - A. Without Me you can do nothing
  - B. I chose you for this purpose: that you should go and bear fruit
  - C. Ask in My Name—this is how fruit is produced
  - D. In answers to prayer is My Father glorified

I am calling for a month of prayer in April. This is a time, like no other, to seek God for wisdom, for the understanding of His purposes and will, and for provision and fruit that only He can produce. The decisions we face are not really about a building; they are about the future of our ministry to the people of McHenry and the discipling of those

**Luke 11:1** It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples."

<sup>2</sup> And He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup> 'Give us each day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup> 'And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation."

<sup>5</sup> Then He said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves;

<sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; <sup>7</sup> and from inside he answers and says, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you *anything*.'

<sup>8</sup> "I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him *anything* because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

<sup>9</sup> "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

<sup>10</sup> "For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be

## Discussion Questions

1. **Why does Jesus emphasize persistence in prayer if God is neither sleepy nor unrighteous?**
2. **What does Jesus mean by asking, seeking, knocking?**
3. **In what way does persistent praying refine the request?**
4. **What does it mean to *wait on the Lord*?**
5. **Why is prayer so vitally important?**

### NOTES

opened.

**Luke 18:1** Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart,<sup>2</sup> saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man.

<sup>3</sup> "There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.'

<sup>4</sup> "For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man,

<sup>5</sup> yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'"

<sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said;

<sup>7</sup> now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?

<sup>7</sup> "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

<sup>8</sup> "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

<sup>16</sup> "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

(John 15:7-16 NAU)