



MESSAGE SUMMARY

Luke 11:1-13

Context of Luke 11 is important, the place of every story and detail is important for Luke. Prior to our passage, we have the story of Martha & Mary in Luke 10:38-42. It shows the 'one thing necessary' is our relationship with Jesus and how easily we can be 'distracted with much serving'.

This isn't a call to action, it is about changing our hearts and perspectives.

We are too busy to not pray! Romans 8:26-27 says that we don't pray as we should. We need help, which is graciously given by the Spirit.

When we pray, what is our motivation, what is our heart, who do we fear? What stops us from praying?

Prayer is a behaviour that reflects what we believe. It is a lifestyle, a heart. If we really believe in total depravity, would we not pray more? If we really believe in God's power, would we not pray more?

The focus of the prayer that Jesus' teaches us is more than the words (words are different in Matthew and Luke; we have no further account of these words in the NT). Jesus is teaching us the heart of prayer – asking God to glorifying His name, bring His Kingdom and help us.

We looked at the Bible and saw the paradox in the effect of prayer – at times our prayers evidently change things, and other times, nothing seems to change.

Luke 18:1-8 – The Parable of the Persistent Widow. We pray with passion, with persistence, with expectancy and trust, only be having a true faith in Jesus. "Prayer is the overflow of our confidence in God." (John Piper)

DISCUSSION

ICE BREAKER: Who has taught you how to pray? Who do you pray like? Who is a 'prayer hero' for you?

READ: Luke 10:38-42

- **We have a culture of Martha, but called to be Mary. Why is this? How can we learn to spend more time with Jesus?**

READ: Luke 11:1-4 (cf. Matthew 6:9-13)

- **What are some helpful insights on the Lord's Prayer that you have heard over the years or have yourself? Share with the group. Remember, this is Jesus "teaching us how to pray", so what can we learn about the nature of prayer from this passage?**

The Christian faith is full of paradox. Tensions we hold by faith. The effect of prayer is one such paradox, where at times our prayers change things, and at other times, nothing seems to happen.

- **Go through the Bible. List as many examples as you can of prayer changing things, and prayer seemingly doing nothing.**
Examples from the message - Rev 8:3-5; Jam 4:2, 5:16 || Mark 14:26; 2 Cor 12:7-10; Acts 12:1-5
- **Do you have any testimonies of the power of prayer? Or a testimony of when you prayed, nothing seemed to happen, but you look back and see God's hand?**

READ: Luke 18:1-8

- **This parable teaches that faith is the key to persistent prayer, to always praying and not losing heart. "Prayer is the overflow of our confidence in God" (John Piper). How can we grow our faith, our trust and our confidence in God?**

PRAY: Pray that God would grow our faith by revealing Himself, opening our eyes to see Him and giving us courage to step out and trust Him in our daily walk with Him.