

Your kingdom come...

Give us each day our daily bread...

Forgive us for we forgive others...

Lead us not into temptation...

Principles of Prayer:

1. Prayer is communion with God, who has authority over us and yet is also intimate.
2. It is to be done with God's glory and purposes foremost in our hearts and minds.
3. It is an expression of our dependence upon and trust in God to meet our needs and to protect us from evil.
4. It is to be done in humility, recognizing our need for forgiveness.

b. Parable of the midnight visitor (5-8)

What does this parable teach us about how to approach God in prayer?

What is the promise?

Does this mean God gives us everything we want?

What does this parable teach us about God's character and desire?

What gift should we value above all else?

III. Conclusion

Prayer is a privilege where we convene with the one and only holy God. From Jesus' example, we learn that prayer is to the Father alone. We are to give praise and honor to our creator and Lord as we come humbly before him seeking his perfect will and not our own. From the parable we see that we ought to approach God boldly in prayer and that we are to be persistent in asking, seeking, and knocking for God will answer our prayers. He responds not begrudgingly like the man in the parable, but like a gracious Father who desires to give his children the best of gifts, the greatest being the Holy Spirit.

More passages on prayer / parables:

- Philippians 4
- 1 Thessalonians 3
- Matthew 6-7
- Genesis 18
- Ephesians 6
- The book of Psalms

Recommended Reading: Don Carson's *A Call to Spiritual Reformation* / Piper's, *Pleasures of God*, Ch. 8.

Next week: Meeting with God's Family



Talking to God

I. Introduction

Class Objective:

- What is prayer?
- Why should we pray?

II. How Should We Pray

Luke 11:1-13

- a. The Lord's prayer (1-4)

Father...

Hallowed be your name...