

The Generosity of God *Luke 11:5-13*

Introduction: Last week as we started a sermon series on prayer we looked at the disciples' request of Jesus to teach them to pray (Luke 11:1). This too is what we are asking of God during these weeks of focusing on prayer. We want Him to teach us to pray. We don't merely want to learn about prayer, we want to be taught to pray. Today we are focusing on the aspect of prayer called petition – making requests. Our eagerness to ask, in large measure, will be affected by our view of God. Is He really generous? Does He really delight to answer our requests?

Opening Discussion: Share about a time when you asked a friend for something? What motivated you to ask?

Read Luke 11:5-10

1. What is the context of this parable? Why is Jesus telling this parable?
2. What is going on in this parable?
3. With whom in the parable are we to relate?
4. Why does the friend eventually grant the man's request?
5. At the core, what is Jesus teaching through this parable?
6. What cause-and-effect connection did Jesus use to follow up on the parable (v. 9)?

Steve said:

We need to understand that God is predisposed to give when we ask; He is predisposed to let us find what we're seeking for; He is predisposed to open the door when we knock. He is that generous. He is that "for us."

As I mentioned last week, you may have all sorts of questions about prayer. But a deepening of our prayer life ***doesn't*** begin by trying to figure out all the mystery and ambiguity of prayer. A deepening of our prayer life begins with the foundational belief that God loves to give. . . The question relevant for your prayer life is, "Do you believe that God is at least as generous as the generous people that you know?" If you are going to

learn how to pray, you need to believe that if you ask you will receive, and if you seek you will find, and that if you knock the door will be opened to you.

7. Do you have this “foundational belief” that God loves to give? Do you truly believe that God is at least as generous as the generous people you know? Why or why not?

Read Luke 5:11-13

8. What is Jesus teaching about God in these verses?
9. How does what Jesus is teaching here relate to what he has said in Luke 11:5-10?

Steve said:

My question is simply, “Do you believe that God is as generous as Jesus said He is?” If you do, you’re poised for Jesus to teach you to pray. If you doubt the generosity of God, I would simply point you back to the cross.

10. In what ways does the cross reveal that God is generous?
11. How can meditating on God’s generosity at the cross encourage us to ask, seek, knock?

Steve said:

My challenge to you is to identify a couple of things that you really want God to do. If you don’t really want anything right now, read the Scriptures with fresh eyes. One of the transformative things about the Bible is that it trains our hearts in what we should want. When you identify **what** you want God to do, simply keep on asking, keep on seeking, and keep on knocking. Those who ask receive; those who seek find; and those who knock have the door opened to them. God is just that generous.

12. What are a couple of things that you really want God to do?
13. What might it look like in the next couple of weeks for you to keep on asking, keep on seeking and keep on knocking on the door of heaven for these things?