

Pray Boldly! 1

Luke 11:5-10

- We have spent a lot of time on prayer over the past 3 months; reigning in a lot of our misconceptions and false notions of what it is and what it isn't.
- We've seen that prayer is not bringing a briefing to heaven or shaping heaven but really the means by which heaven shapes us and conforms us to glory of God, will of God, and the kingdom of God.
- Its puny a view of God and prayer that says that God can be manipulated, swayed, or informed about anything.
- Ultimately, there is no contingency outside of the glory, will, and kingdom of God: [Job 42:2](#)
- Nothing God says ever changes because there's never any more information--unlike our world that has to change constantly because there are so many things that we don't know.
- When God makes a declaration, there are no other contingencies; there is nothing He doesn't already know about what will happen. [Proverbs 19:21](#)
- [Isaiah 14:24](#); [Isaiah 46:9-11](#) "I know it; I have planned it; I will carry it out."
- [Acts 1:7](#) – Fixed! [Acts 4:27](#)
- Why am I telling you this? This directly affects our attitude about prayer, doesn't it?

1. Why even pray? Why bother?

- Number one: He tells us to.
- Look at the some of these prayers that come at pivotal times in God's plan: [Nehemiah 1:5-6](#)— Not exactly just an "[Oh, Lord, let your will be done](#)" kind of prayer.
- [Psalm 17:1](#); [Psalm 55:1](#); [Psalm 143:1](#)—"[We should never speak to God like that](#)"—really? Why then are these kinds of prayers endorsed in the inspired text?
- They sound just like this guy in Luke 11 who needed bread from his neighbor.
- Know that God's in charge and that His will is fixed without any contingency, but never doubt the importance of prayer.
- [V. 8](#)—"Persistence"—some translations say "Importunity"— means persistence but in an annoying way.
- This word only shows up in the Greek one time in the entire New Testament—So, Jesus picks a very special word to convey how He wants us to pray.
- So, we have the diagram of prayer in Verses 1-4 and the attitude of prayer in verses 5 and following.

2. Jesus tells us that our attitude in prayer is to be one of annoying persistence!

- Do you like to be woken up in the middle of the night for an emergency? But this is not an emergency!
- Hospitality was held in high regard in this culture, but what he asks for tells us there was no real reason to wake up his friend.
- "Three loaves" is not referring to Wonder Bread or anything of the like, but three flat bread loaves that amounted to little more than tortillas.
- He's short 3 tortillas, so he wakes up his neighbor out of a sound sleep because he didn't want to leave a bad impression with his unannounced guest—This is over the top.
- Understand: the emphasis is that this request is not life or death, not serious at all, only something that would have mattered to the man making the request and nobody else.
- It is this level of request that Jesus says we should bring and not give up on.

--It only mattered to that man-- Jesus is teaching that if matters to you, don't just mention it – be shamelessly persistent about it!

--VV. 9-10 – “I say to you” – This isn't some preacher's opinion This is the incarnate Son of God telling us this.

--Given all that's going on in the world, sometimes our comparatively unimportant issues seem like asking for 3 tortillas at midnight, don't they?

--If it matters to you, it matters to Him...bring it! and don't let up!

--The only thing ruder than being rude to God is not coming to Him with whatever is on your heart!

--As high and lofty as praying to the God of the universe is, never forget—Jesus told us to call Him our Father!

--Children don't need a good reason, they don't need a pass, or to be put on God's agenda in advance—children come to their Father on the least whim of need.

--They don't wait on seemingly shut doors or hold up because of odd hours or strange request—they seek, ask, knock and don't give up.