

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE – Rikk Watts

God's Honor and Prayer—for the Gift of the Holy Spirit

Luke 11: 5-13 | February 6, 2020

This outline — and especially its questions, is designed to help your study group engage with the sermon; so you'll need to have listened to it before you begin.

As we all know, understanding Luke's larger setting and his immediate context for Jesus' teaching is essential to hearing what the Spirit wants to say through him.

- By way of reminder; the larger setting:
 1. What are some of Luke's key themes and why are they important?
 2. Our text is found in what uniquely extended section of Luke?
 3. What are two of Luke's unique features or emphases in this section?
 4. How might all this prepare us for hearing Jesus' teaching on persistent prayer for the gift of the Holy Spirit (11:13)?
- Immediate context (10:1—11:4)

Luke's narrative moves from the return of the 72 (10:1-17) and Jesus' response (10:18-24), to the stories of the two men (the Lawyer and the Samaritan, 10:25-37) and the two peasant women (Martha and Mary, 10:38-41). Here we are trying to understand what Luke intends by connecting them.

 1. The disciples' rejoice because of their authority (10:17). But according to Jesus, what should they be thankful for instead? What might this say about Jesus' priorities and ours?
 2. Jesus describes the disciples as "little children" (10:21). To whom does Luke next contrast them, and what do the disciples' see that this individual does not?
 3. In terms of the two greatest commandments (10:27-28), if the "Good Samaritan" speaks to loving your neighbour as oneself, what might the following story about Martha and Mary imply about Mary's listening to Jesus?
 4. If Martha and Mary are "neighbours," for Jesus, which of the two commandments takes priority? Why do you think this might be?
- The Lord's prayer (11:1-4) and Jesus' teaching on prayer for the Holy Spirit (11:5-13).

In our previous sessions on the Lord's prayer, we've drawn from a range of biblical materials. Here we want to return to focussing on what Luke himself says.

The Lord's prayer (11:1-4)

 1. The last thing we heard was that Mary had chosen the better thing (10:42). But since Jesus' teaching is not specified (10:39), what might it mean for Luke to follow this by Jesus' specific teaching on how we should pray?
 2. Luke's account of the Lord's prayer (11:1-4) is about half the length of the more familiar version of Matthew. What are some of Luke's most surprising omissions and why are they

significant? What does this tell us about what Luke considers to be the most important elements of the Lord's prayer?

- How should we pray (11:5-13).
 1. How many units are there to this section, what are their main concerns, and which unit is central to understanding the others?
- A. The Three Friends (11:5-8)
 1. Discuss how the first century setting provides context for the first story, noting especially its three main social mores.
 2. Whose "shamelessness" is at stake here? What might be some modern equivalents?
 3. What does Jesus imply that this says about God, and how does it relate to the prayer Jesus taught us?
- B. Ask, seek, knock (11:9-10)
 1. How does Jesus' emphatic saying flow out of the first story?
 2. What did learn about the significance of the Greek tense of the commands?
 3. Who can participate and how does this relate to Luke's larger themes?
- C. Fathers, God, and the Holy Spirit (11:11-13).
 1. How does this unit function within the whole? What might it imply about the "better thing" that Mary has chosen?
 2. What does Jesus mean when he calls earthly fathers evil?
 3. Why do you think it matters that Luke here speaks of our heavenly father?
 4. What might is mean that Jesus' teaching on prayer finishes with asking for the gift of the Holy Spirit?

Finally.

1. What struck you as the more important elements of Jesus' teaching on how we should pray?
2. How might this change the way you think about prayer, and about the Holy Spirit?
3. What other observations and your own experiences might be relevant to this topic?