

## Walking with Jesus 2: Lord, Teach Us to Pray

**Series:** Walking with Jesus: Lessons for the Road of Discipleship

**Text:** Luke 11:1–13

**Preacher:** Billy Johnson

### Main Idea:

**Walking with Jesus means learning to pray like Jesus—**

not just with words, but with trust;

not just to get things, but to get Him.

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### Introduction

- Many of us struggle with prayer: not knowing what to say, feeling distant from God, or wondering if it even matters.
- One of Jesus' disciples voiced a universal desire: "Lord, teach us to pray."
- Jesus responds not with a lecture, but with a model and a mindset—shaped by relationship, persistence, and dependence.

### Section-by-Section Exposition

#### Luke 11:1 – "Lord, teach us to pray"

- The only recorded time the disciples asked Jesus to teach them something specific.
- Why not ask about preaching or miracles? Because they saw Jesus' life of prayer—and they wanted that kind of connection to God.

#### Luke 11:2–4 – The Lord's Prayer (Luke's Version)

- **"Father..."** – Prayer begins with relationship. The Aramaic *Abba* signals intimacy and belonging.
- **"Hallowed be your name..."** – Worship and reverence are the starting posture.
- **"Your kingdom come..."** – A prayer of allegiance, not self-centeredness.
- **"Give us each day our daily bread..."** – Trusting God for today's needs.
- **"Forgive us... as we forgive..."** – Prayer forms a grace-shaped community.
- **"Lead us not into temptation..."** – Dependence and protection.

#### Luke 11:5–8 – The Midnight Friend

- A parable of shameless persistence (*anaideia*)—bold, audacious prayer.

- Jesus teaches through contrast: if a reluctant neighbor responds, how much more will a loving Father respond?

### **Luke 11:9–10 – Ask, Seek, Knock**

- Commands and promises in continuous action: Keep asking. Keep seeking. Keep knocking.
- God is not worn out by repetition. He welcomes it.

### **Luke 11:11–13 – A Good Father Gives Good Gifts**

- Earthly fathers give good gifts—how much more will our heavenly Father?
- The greatest gift He gives: the Holy Spirit—God’s very presence.

## **Main Points**

### **1. Prayer is Relationship**

- Jesus starts with “Father”—a radical, intimate invitation.
- Prayer isn’t a transaction but a conversation with someone who loves us.
- Illustration: “The Father Filter” – how we perceive God shapes how we approach Him.
- Don’t fix yourself up first—just say “Father” and begin.

### **2. Prayer is Persistence**

- Jesus encourages shameless persistence—not to annoy God, but to train our trust.
- God isn’t reluctant—He’s ready. But sometimes He draws us closer by making us wait.
- Quote from N.T. Wright:  
*“Prayer is not about trying to get God to do what we want. It’s about learning to want what God wants, and to persist in trusting that He’s good, even when the answer is slow in coming.”*

### **3. Prayer is Dependence**

- Every line in the Lord’s Prayer expresses need and trust.
- “Daily bread” recalls manna: not stockpiling but daily trust.
- Prayer reminds us that we are not self-sufficient but God-dependent.
- The final promise: God gives us Himself—His Spirit, His presence.

## **Illustration**

- **Long Road Trip Conversation** – A silent road trip with someone you love would feel weird. A prayerless life is like being with Jesus but never speaking to Him.

## **Application**

- **Pray the Lord's Prayer daily this week.**  
Not as a ritual, but as a roadmap.
- Use each line to pause and reflect on your own heart and relationship with the Father.

## **Conclusion**

- Walking with Jesus means praying like Jesus.
- Let's not be silent travelers.
- The Father is good. The door is open. The invitation is real:  
**Ask. Seek. Knock.**