

The Power of Prayer
Matthew 6:7-8

Review:

1. We must never imagine that God is compelled to answer our prayers because of their form or repetition
2. Because God knows what we need, we must trust in His providence and not insist on our desires
3. The Father did not answer Jesus' prayer to avoid the cross, because He knew we needed a Savior

Go Further: Read Luke 11:5-10; Luke 18:1-8

1. What is the reason Jesus gives in verses 5 and 6 for the man going to wake up his friend at midnight?
2. What excuse does the man in bed give for not wanting to get up and help his friend?
3. Why does Jesus say the man in bed will eventually get up?
4. What lesson does Jesus draw in verse 9 from the story He tells in verses 5-8?
5. What three things does Jesus urge us to do in verse 9?
6. What three promises does Jesus make in verse 10?
7. According to 18:1, what is the lesson Luke wants us to draw from the parable that follows?
8. How does Jesus describe the judge in verse 2?
9. What is the request the widow makes of the judge in verse 3?
10. Why does Jesus say in verses 4 and 5 that the judge eventually helped the widow?
11. What conclusion does Jesus draw from this story in verse 7?
12. What does Jesus promise that God will do in verse 8?
13. What does Jesus wonder will be present on the earth when the Son of Man comes again?

Apply:

1. Hospitality was central to Ancient Near Eastern culture, so having some food for a traveler was an urgent need. What urgent needs have you brought before the Lord in prayer? How has God answered your prayers?
2. In the original Greek, each one of the verbs in Luke 11:9 expresses continual, repeated action. Why is it important for us to keep on asking, seeking, and knocking? How does such persistent prayer express our faith in God?
3. How do the promises Jesus makes in Luke 11:10 inspire you to more persistent prayer?
4. What keeps you from spending more time in prayer? What changes can you make to open up more time for God in your life?
5. How is the judge in Luke 18:2 different from God? In what way is he similar?
6. Many people today are clamoring for greater justice in society. Given Jesus' teaching in Luke 18, what is essential in order to achieve this goal? How can we be sure that God will answer our prayers?