

THE VALUE AND POWER OF PRAYER

BIBLE TEXT : Luke 11:1-13; Matthew 6:9-13

LESSON 133 **Senior Course**

MEMORY VERSE: "Ash, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Luke 11:9).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Luke 11:1-13

¹ And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

² And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

³ Give us day by day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

⁵ And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;

⁶ For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?

⁷ And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.

⁸ I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

⁹ And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

¹⁰ For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I The Disciple's Request

1 The constant prayer-life of Jesus was an incentive to His disciples to do likewise, Luke 11:1;

Luke 3:21

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,

Luke 6:12

¹² And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Matthew 26:36-44

³⁶ Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.

³⁷ And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.

³⁸ Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

³⁹ And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

⁴⁰ And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

⁴¹ Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

⁴² He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

⁴³ And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.

⁴⁴ And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

2 One man requested that Jesus teach the disciples to pray as John had taught his disciples, Luke 11:1;

Luke 5:33

³³ And they said unto him, Why do the disciples of John fast often, and make prayers, and likewise *the disciples* of the Pharisees; but thine eat and drink?

Romans 8:26-27

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

²⁷ And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

II The Lord's Prayer

1 The Lord's prayer teaches the true relationship between God and the disciples of Christ: "Our Father," Luke 11:2;

Matthew 6:9

⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Romans 8:14-16

¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are

it shall be opened.

¹¹ If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if *he ask* a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

¹² Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

¹³ If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Matthew 6:9-13

⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

the sons of God.

¹⁵ For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Isaiah 63:16

¹⁶ Doubtless thou *art* our father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, O LORD, *art* our father, our redeemer; thy name *is* from everlasting.

2 The prayer taught the disciples to reverence God, to submit to His rule and will, Luke 11:2; Matthew 6:9, 10

3 Dependence upon. God for daily needs was clearly indicated, Luke 11:3; Matthew 6:11;

Exodus 16:15-22

¹⁵ And when the children of Israel saw *it*, they said one to another, It *is* manna: for they wist not what it *was*. And Moses said unto them, This *is* the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat.

¹⁶ This *is* the thing which the LORD hath commanded, Gather of it every man according to his eating, an omer for every man, *according to* the number of your persons; take ye every man for *them* which *are* in his tents.

¹⁷ And the children of Israel did so, and gathered, some more, some less.

¹⁸ And when they did mete *it* with an omer, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack; they gathered every man according to his eating.

¹⁹ And Moses said, Let no man leave of it till the morning.

²⁰ Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them.

²¹ And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it melted.

²² And it came to pass, *that* on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one *man*: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses.

Isaiah 33:16

¹⁶ He shall dwell on high: his place of defence *shall be* the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters *shall be* sure.

John 6:27-33

²⁷ Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

²⁸ Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?

²⁹ Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

³⁰ They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?

³¹ Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

³² Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

³³ For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

4 Forgiveness to others is shown to be necessary on the

disciples' part, Luke 11:4; Matthew 6:12, 14, 15;

Mark 11:25-26

²⁵ And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

²⁶ But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

5 Jesus pointed out the need of God's help in time of temptation, Luke 11:4; 22:46; Matthew 6:13;

John 17:15

¹⁵ I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

6 God's authority, power, and glory will be forever, Matthew 6:13;

Daniel 4:34

³⁴ And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:

1 Timothy 6:14-16

¹⁴ That thou keep *this* commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

¹⁵ Which in his times he shall shew, *who* is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

¹⁶ Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom *be* honour and power everlasting. Amen.

III The Illustration of Prayer at Work

1 A friend was approached at midnight with a request for three loaves of bread, Luke 11:5, 6

2 The answer came from within the friend's house: "Trouble me not ... I cannot rise and give thee," Luke 11:7

3 The friend would not arise and give for friendship's sake, but because the man who sought help was persistent, he prevailed and received, Luke 11:8;

Luke 18:1-8

¹ And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

² Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:

³ And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

⁴ And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;

⁵ Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

⁶ And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

⁷ And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

⁸ I tell you that he will avenge them speedily.

Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Genesis 32:26-29

²⁶ And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

²⁷ And he said unto him, What *is* thy name? And he said, Jacob.

²⁸ And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

²⁹ And Jacob asked *him*, and said, Tell *me*, I pray thee,

thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it *that* thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there.

4 Jesus said that those who seek heavenly gifts shall be rewarded likewise when they importune, Luke 11:9, 10; Matthew 6:34

5 The Father is willing to give the Holy Spirit to His children who ask, just as surely as men give good gifts to their children, Luke 11:11-13;

Luke 24:49

⁴⁹ And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 1:4-5

⁴ And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me.

⁵ For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Acts 2:4

⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

NOTES:

"Teach us to pray." The request was made by one of Jesus' disciples that the Great Teacher might reveal the acceptable way to commune with God. Jesus often prayed and always emphasized the need of prayer on the part of His followers. The world in general, and many so-called Christians as well, do not recognize that need for prayer. Sin separates man from God; therefore it is not natural for the ordinary, worldly-minded, worldly-wise man to pray. Sinful man thinks he is ruler of his own destiny and needs no external help, but how quickly this attitude changes when the events of life pass beyond the sphere of man's control, and he flounders beyond the grip of himself or an understanding of the circumstances that surround him.

Reinstatement with God

"When thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness" (Isaiah 26:9). With loving-kindness God at times will allow disaster to overtake men for the express purpose of teaching them righteousness. When the world treats a man ill, he will be more inclined to seek the way back to Father's house.

"Prayer is the key to the door of grace," the song says. Jesus said, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved" (John 10:9). John the Baptist cried, "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:2). The only way into the Kingdom of Heaven, then, is by the repentance route, through the door of grace, that opens only to prayer. Herein may the value of prayer be seen — it is the only way men can be reinstated into fellowship and favor with God.

The Supply Line

When a man is born from above, has the born-again experience in his heart, the life of the Son of God begins within him. Prayer and reading the Word of God are, two things that will nourish that spiritual life. If a man wants the life Of God within him to flourish, he must be diligent to observe these two privileges; the lack of either will cause that life to starve.

When Jesus said, "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint," He could see that lethargy and sin would be rampant in

the world. "Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" (Matthew 24:12). Jesus foreknew the day when people could too easily throw off the responsibilities of active service for God and real earnestness in prayer, faith, and consecration, and take on the spirit of careless indifference that would lead them to sure destruction if they persisted in that course. All who would keep in touch with God must pray, for when prayer ceases in the individual life, fainting in the spiritual sense ensues. Physical fainting is detrimental to physical progression; spiritual fainting causes greater damage to the soul's spiritual progression.

Prayer is the supply line to the soul's necessary daily supply of grace. It is the means by which men can keep in vital contact with God. It is the source of supply for oil to keep the lamp of God burning in our lives. (See **Matthew 25:1-13** ¹ Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. ² And five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish. ³ They that *were* foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: ⁴ But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵ While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. ⁶ And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. ⁷ Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. ⁹ But the wise answered, saying, *Not* so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. ¹⁰ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. ¹¹ Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. ¹² But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. ¹³ Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.) Prayer is the thing that will get us ready and keep us ready for the coming of Jesus.

The Model Prayer

Jesus conceded immediately to the disciple's request and taught all Christian people how to pray. Let no one think, however, that Jesus would tie His disciples or Christians to the constant use of only this prayer. The Lord said, "After this manner therefore pray ye," not intending His prayer be made into a vain repetition. Let men rather draw near to the throne of heavenly grace with boldness, and let each tell his needs in the language which the Holy Spirit teaches.

"Our Father": Jesus taught that God is a tender and gracious Parent who knows the wants and listens to the prayers of His children. "Which art in heaven": He is infinitely superior to any father on the earth. "Hallowed be thy name": Jesus here emphasizes the sacredness of God's name and the sanctity of the command, "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain" (Exodus 20:7).

"Thy kingdom come": That this petition may be truly offered, a man must absolutely submit to the Father, give his heart to God, and consequently be a true Christian. "Thy will be done": God's laws are to be obeyed, and His commandments are to be diligently observed. God's will also includes the design that His children should tell the Story of Redemption to others and pray for souls that they might be saved and brought into the Kingdom of God. "In earth, as it is in heaven": During the Millennial Reign, when Jesus sets up His throne and rules the earth in a thousand years of peace, God's will shall be known and performed by men Oust as perfectly as His will is known and performed in Heaven

today. The sincere and true children of God will be granted the honor of reigning with Christ during that thousand years of peace on earth. These three petitions of Christ's prayer comprise the things that need to be prayed for, apart from the individual's needs.

Requirements of Life

"Give us this day our daily bread": Includes all the needs of life. Supplying the needs one day at a time teaches the children to be absolutely dependent upon their heavenly Father. Recognition is here given of the soul's daily need for the Bread of Heaven as well as for temporal food. "And forgive us our debts": This portion of Christ's prayer does not give license to continuous or willful sin. The thought here expressed is that God would forgive His children any error of individual judgment, or infraction upon God's perfect law, or lack of conformity to His will, resulting from ignorance of that law or will. "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17). Sin is not charged until the good is known, but when knowledge comes and the infraction continues, then willful sin is reckoned and the man is no longer the child of God. "As we forgive our debtors": If men expect God to forgive the trespasses they commit against Him, then they must be willing to forgive the trespasses committed against themselves by their fellow men.

"And lead us not into temptation": The prayer implored that God's children be not brought into trials that might endanger their souls. It is a prayer uttered in submission to whatever trials God permits, however, because Jesus immediately added, "But deliver us from evil." In other words, if Thy children are led into temptations dangerous to the soul, grant the necessary strength to overcome and be victorious.

Under these three headings pertaining to earthly things can be seen all of the things that the individual needs to pray for for himself. All God's promised blessings to mankind are comprehended in this short prayer. Jesus ended the prayer with three ascriptions to God's preeminence, "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever." The "Amen" denotes the entire consent to the prayer of each heart who prays it.

Prayer's Ideal

Some people look upon prayer only as a means of getting things for themselves, whereas the Bible idea of prayer is that God's glory, holiness, purpose, and wise order may be brought about. Truly, the Bible describes many blessings that come to the individual only through prayer; and these blessings, in turn, make the man a better soldier of the Cross and enable him to witness for God and further the cause of Christ and the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. Jesus exemplified the proper attitude of prayer in the hour of His extreme trial and agony in Gethsemane. As He earnestly prayed, He cried, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matthew 26:39).

"Nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt": Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the second Person of the Trinity, found it necessary to pray that prayer to His Father for strength to accomplish His mission that would bring free salvation to man. How much greater the degree of our need, creatures of a day, to allow the Sovereign Ruler to guide our destiny! Man knows not one minute ahead of time what events will transpire, while God knows the end from the beginning. Men, and above all, Christians, should be willing to follow Jesus' example and allow God to show

them the way they should journey or the thing that He has decreed for their lives. God is willing, for we read, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD" (Psalm 37:23).

Power with God

It is a tremendous thought that man can actually prevail with God — that God can be influenced by the petitions and supplications of man. There are no limitations to the things God will do for men so long as those things are asked in the interest of God's glory. "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him" (1 John 5:14, 15).

As men are thoughtful of their children, so God is thoughtful of His own. When a child asks a parent for bread, the child receives bread, not a stone; if he asks for an egg, a scorpion will not be handed to him instead. Jesus said, "How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (Luke 11:11-13). The greatest gift that can come to man, the baptism of the Holy Ghost, will be given for the asking, given upon the clean, sanctified heart and life. True faith will never be defeated.

"Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son" (John 14:13). "In my name," means according to and corresponding with the Father's will. A man could not rightfully ask something in Jesus' name adverse to His will, and expect an answer, could he? "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). Too many people seek the temporal things of life first and the spiritual life last, then wonder why their prayers are not answered.

Determination's Value

The Bible speaks much about being persistent in prayer. God honors determination in seeking His blessing. The Lord delights to answer the prayers of people who are sure that the blessing they seek is the will of God, and then present the petition with purpose and determination, earnestness and enthusiasm, importunity and perseverance. God answers prayer. The prayer that will not let go, as Jacob's prayer (**Genesis 32:1-32** ¹ And Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. ² And when Jacob saw them, he said, This is God's host: and he called the name of that place Mahanaim. ³ And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother unto the land of Seir, the country of Edom. ⁴ And he commanded them, saying, Thus shall ye speak unto my lord Esau; Thy servant Jacob saith thus, I have sojourned with Laban, and stayed there until now: ⁵ And I have oxen, and asses, flocks, and menservants, and womenservants: and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find grace in thy sight. ⁶ And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, We came to thy brother Esau, and also he cometh to meet thee, and four hundred men with him. ⁷ Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed: and he divided the people that *was* with him, and the flocks, and herds, and the camels, into two bands; ⁸ And said, If Esau come to the one company, and smite it, then the other company which is left shall escape. ⁹ And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the LORD which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee: ¹⁰ I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands. ¹¹ Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, *and* the mother with the children. ¹² And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which

cannot be numbered for multitude. ¹³ And he lodged there that same night; and took of that which came to his hand a present for Esau his brother; ¹⁴ Two hundred she goats, and twenty he goats, two hundred ewes, and twenty rams, ¹⁵ Thirty milch camels with their colts, forty kine, and ten bulls, twenty she asses, and ten foals. ¹⁶ And he delivered *them* into the hand of his servants, every drove by themselves; and said unto his servants, Pass over before me, and put a space betwixt drove and drove. ¹⁷ And he commanded the foremost, saying, When Esau my brother meeteth thee, and asketh thee, saying, Whose *art* thou? and whither goest thou? and whose *are* these before thee? ¹⁸ Then thou shalt say, *They be* thy servant Jacob's; it is a present sent unto my lord Esau: and, behold, also he is behind us. ¹⁹ And so commanded he the second, and the third, and all that followed the droves, saying, On this manner shall ye speak unto Esau, when ye find him. ²⁰ And say ye moreover, Behold, thy servant Jacob is behind us. For he said, I will appease him with the present that goeth before me, and afterward I will see his face; peradventure he will accept of me. ²¹ So went the present over before him: and himself lodged that night in the company. ²² And he rose up that night, and took his two wives, and his two womenservants, and his eleven sons, and passed over the ford Jabbok. ²³ And he took them, and sent them over the brook, and sent over that he had. ²⁴ And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. ²⁵ And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. ²⁷ And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. ²⁸ And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed. ²⁹ And Jacob asked *him*, and said, Tell *me*, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it *that* thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there. ³⁰ And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved. ³¹ And as he passed over Peniel the sun rose upon him, and he halted upon his thigh. ³² Therefore the children of Israel eat not of the sinew which shrank, which is upon the hollow of the thigh, unto this day: because he touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh in the sinew that shrank); the prayer that will not be put off, as the Syrophenician woman's (**Mark 7:25-30** ²⁵ For a *certain* woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet: ²⁶ The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter. ²⁷ But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast *it* unto the dogs. ²⁸ And she answered and said unto him, Yes, Lord: yet the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs. ²⁹ And he said unto her, For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter. ³⁰ And when she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed) ; the prayer prayed in desperate need, as the demoniac's (**Mark 5:1-20**

¹ And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. ² And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, ³ Who had *his* dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: ⁴ Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any *man* tame him. ⁵ And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones. ⁶ But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him, ⁷ And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, *thou* Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not. ⁸ For he said unto him, Come out of the man, *thou* unclean spirit. ⁹ And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many. ¹⁰ And he besought him much that he

QUESTIONS

- 1 What is prayer?
- 2 Why is it necessary for Christians to pray?
- 3 Can you repeat the Lord's prayer from memory?
- 4 What truths can we learn from the Lord's prayer?
- 5 Did Jesus intend that His disciples and Christians should use only this one prayer whenever they prayed?
- 6 When a man prays, is it important that he be willing to do God's will? Why?
- 7 Can a sinner pray and expect God to answer? What kind of prayer must the sinner's prayer be if God does answer?
- 8 Name some of the blessings that come to men as a result of their prayers.
- 9 What would you say is the most valuable thing about prayer?

would not send them away out of the country. ¹¹ Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding. ¹² And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them. ¹³ And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea. ¹⁴ And they that fed the swine fled, and told *it* in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done. ¹⁵ And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. ¹⁶ And they that saw *it* told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the devil, and *also* concerning the swine. ¹⁷ And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts. ¹⁸ And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him. ¹⁹ Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. ²⁰ And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all *men* did marvel) ; the prayer of importunity, as the prayer in today's lesson (Luke 11:5-8); the prayer prayed purely for God's glory, as Elijah's on Mount Carmel (**1 Kings 18:22-39** ²² Then said Elijah unto the people, I, *even* I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets *are* four hundred and fifty men. ²³ Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay *it* on wood, and put no fire *under*: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay *it* on wood, and put no fire *under*: ²⁴ And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken. ²⁵ And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress *it* first; for ye *are* many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire *under*. ²⁶ And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed *it*, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But *there was* no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made. ²⁷ And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he *is* a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked. ²⁸ And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them. ²⁹ And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the *time* of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, that *there was* neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded. ³⁰ And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD *that was* broken down. ³¹ And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name: ³² And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. ³³ And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid *him* on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour *it* on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood. ³⁴ And he said, Do *it* the second time. And they did *it* the second time. And he said, Do *it* the third time. And they did *it* the third time. ³⁵ And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water. ³⁶ And it came to pass at the *time* of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou *art* God in Israel, and *that* I *am* thy servant, and *that* I have done all these things at thy word. ³⁷ Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou *art* the LORD God, and *that* thou hast turned their heart back again. ³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that *was* in the trench. ³⁹ And when all the people

saw *it*, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, *he is the God*; the LORD, *he is the God*) — these are the types of prayers that God is answering. He is just as willing to hear and answer our prayer as He was the prayers of these Biblical characters, for "God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34). "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16).