

## Talk to Your Dad

(Luke 11:1-13)

### Introduction

1. [Series] Resonate: Tune into Jesus' frequency to amplify the gospel in your life & church, and to impact the culture.
2. Many see God's answers to prayers as fickle, unsure of what they will get, or whether or not it will be good.
  - a. Jesus is going to teach His followers what God is really like, and how to approach & talk to Him.
3. Prayer: Just as the Word of God is the primary means He talks to us, prayer is simply the means we talk with God.
  - a. It can be verbal; God hears our every word. It can be silent; God knows our every thought.
  - b. It can be in written form (journaling) or music form (singing in worship).

### God is a good Father [Luke 11:1-2]

1. [2a] Jesus teaches followers to address God as "Father."
  - a. God adopts us into His family (cf. Rom 8:15-17, Gal 4:5, Eph 1:5), with Jesus as our perfect elder Brother.
  - b. Prayer is about focusing on God as a person with whom we have a relationship as our Father.
  - c. Jesus teaches us to know our Father for who He is:
2. [2b] Our Father is holy:
  - a. It means He's set apart, only good, without sin/darkness.
  - b. The Bible speaks of this attribute of God the most.
  - c. Application: As we acknowledge He's holy, it invites us to examine how we are not & need His help.
3. [2c] Our Father is King:
  - a. He is a benevolent, loving, good, perfect King of kings.
  - b. His Kingdom is filled with justice, love, mercy, where the needs of His people will be met.
  - c. Application: Followers of the King ask Him to bring His Kingdom, to us & through us.
    - i. [John Calvin] "Make the invisible Kingdom visible."
    - ii. The Church acts to meet people's needs as a reflection of our Father.

### Our Father gives good gifts [Luke 11:3-4]

1. Since we know God is a good Father, we can ask Him for good things.
2. [3] Our Father is generous: He provides for our daily needs.
  - a. Application: We bring our needs, not our greeds, to the Father.
  - b. He always answers: Yes, no, or later, depending on whether our good Dad knows it's good for us.
  - c. Application: Jesus commissions His Church to generously help those in genuine need.
3. [4a] Our Father is forgiving:
  - a. Application: As we recognize His holiness & our sinfulness, we repent & He forgives.
  - b. [4b] Lifestyle of forgiveness: Because we are forgiven in Christ, we are empowered to forgive through Christ.
4. [4c] Application: We can ask our Father to protect us from temptation & sin (cf. 1 Cor 10:13).
5. If you want to learn how to pray, don't look to religious people, look to children who have a Father that loves them.
  - a. Children approach their dad continuously if they are well-loved.

### **Our Father gives to those who persistently ask [Luke 11:5-13]**

1. [5-7] Example of when & how to ask: A late night visit from a neighbor making their problem your problem
  - a. [8] Even when we're not the greatest children of God, He is loving, gracious & kind.
  - b. We should come to Him day or night because He is a Father who loves us & is never asleep, tired or weary.
  - c. We can talk to God anytime about anything.
2. [9-12] When we come to God with our needs, we need to keep asking, seeking Him & His will, and knocking.
  - a. [9-10] "Ask, seek, knock": [present imperative tense of verbs] Continual, ongoing, persistent process.
  - b. [11-12] Reason we can trust: If sinful dads can give good things, how much more will our good, holy Father who is a King give His very best? (cf. Rom 5:8)
  - c. Application: Persistently ask, seek & knock, because He is a good Father.

### **Our Father's best gift is the Holy Spirit [Luke 11:13]**

1. When the disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray, He responds that they need the gift of the Holy Spirit.
  - a. The Holy Spirit is God speaking to us (as the Spirit of truth) & empowering us (as the Helper). [John 14:16-17]
2. The Holy Spirit speaks to us to lead/guide us [John 14:26; 16:13-14].
  - a. He moves us to know, follow & worship Jesus [John 3:5-8].
  - b. He gives conviction of sin, so we can repent & receive forgiveness [John 16:7-11].
  - c. He teaches us what to say as a Christian [Luke 12:12].
3. The Holy Spirit empowers us
  - a. To overcome sin & experience new life in Christ [Rom 8:9-11]
  - b. He helps us to worship [Phil 3:3] & pray [Rom 8:26].
  - c. He gifts us for ministry to serve others to the glory of God [1 Cor 12:4-11; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8]
  - d. He bears the fruit of the character of Christ in our lives [Gal 5:22-23].
4. Application: What good things do you need from your good Dad? Come to Him in prayer now.
  - a. For some: you've waited & given up. Keep asking, seeking, knocking, because your good Father invites it.
  - b. Ask God for more of His best gift, the Holy Spirit, to work in you.