

7/25/2010

**THE PSALM AND THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Psalm 119:145-49**

Lay Minister: 145 I call with all my heart; answer me, O LORD, and I will obey your decrees.

**People: 146 I call out to you; save me and I will keep your statutes.**

Lay Minister: 147 I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word.

**People: 148 My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promises.**

Lay Minister: 149 Hear my voice in accordance with your love;

**People: preserve my life, O LORD, according to your laws.**

Lay Minister: We begin our worship, calling on God for help and mercy, listening for His voice

and His promises.

**People: We begin in the name of God the Father, and in the name of God the Son,**

**and in the name of God the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY O Lord, let Your merciful ears be attentive to the prayers of Your servants, and by Your Word and Spirit teach us how to pray that our petitions may be pleasing before You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Genesis 18: 20-33**

*(Abraham pleads for the righteous in Sodom.)*

20 Then the LORD said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous 21 that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know." 22 The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD.

23 Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 24 What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? 25 Far be it from you to do such a thing-- to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?" 26 The LORD said, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

27 Then Abraham spoke up again: "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, 28 what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city because of five people?" "If I find forty-five there," he said, "I will not destroy it." 29 Once again he spoke to him, "What if only forty are found there?" He said, "For the sake of forty, I will not do it." 30 Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?" He answered, "I will not do it if I find thirty there." 31 Abraham said, "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?" He said, "For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it." 32 Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?" He answered, "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it."

33 When the LORD had finished speaking with Abraham, he left, and Abraham returned home.

## THE GOSPEL LESSON Luke 11:1-13

*(Jesus teaches about prayer.)*

1 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "**Lord, teach us to pray**, just as John taught his disciples." 2 He said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. 3 Give us each day our daily bread. 4 Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation. "

5 Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, 6 because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.' 7 "Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' 8 I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs. 9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. 11 "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?

**13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"**

### The Sermon

### "Lord, Teach us to Pray"

### Luke 11

1 Kai. evge,neto evn tw| ei=nai avto.n evn to,pw| tini. proseuco,menon( w`j evpau,sato( ei=pe,n tij tw/n maqhtw/n avtouto/ pro.j avto,n\ ku,rie( di,daxon h`ma/j proseu,cesqai( kaqw.j kai. Vlwa,nnhj evdi,daxen tou.j maqhta.j avtouto/

And it happened while he was in a certain place playing, as he stopped, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray."

2 ei=pen de. avtoi/j\ o[tan proseu,chsqe le,gete\ Pa,ter( a`giasqh,tw to. o;noma, sou\ evlqe,tw h` basilei,a sou\

And he said to them, "When you pray, say, 'Father, let your name be holy. Let your kingdom come.

3 to.n a;rtou h`mw/n to.n evpiou,sion di,dou h`mi/n to. kaqV h`me,ran\

Our bread which (is) sufficient for the day, give us each day.

4 kai. a;fej h`mi/n ta.j a`marti,aj h`mw/n( kai. ga.r avtoi. avfi,omen panti. ovfei,lonti h`mi/n\ kai. mh. eivsene,gkhj h`ma/j eivj peirasmo,n

And forgive us our sins, and we shall forgive them all owing us. And do not bring us into temptation

5 Kai. ei=pen pro.j avtouto,j\ ti,j evx u`mw/n e[xei fi,lon kai. poreu,setai pro.j avto.n mesonukti,ou kai. ei;ph| avtw/\ fi,le( crh/so,n moi trei/j a;rtouj(

And he said to them, "Which of you, having a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night and says to him, "Friend, lend me 3 loaves of bread."

6 evpeidh. fi,loj mou parege,neto evx o`dou/ pro,j me kai. ouv e;cw o] paraqh,sw aurtw/|\

Because my friend came on the road / way to me and I do not have anything I shall lay before / offer him.

7 kavkei/noj e;swqen avpokriqei.j ei;ph|( mh, moi ko,pouj pa,rece\ h;dh h` qu,ra ke,kleistai kai. ta. paidi,a mou metV evmou/ eivj th.n koi,thn eivsi,n\ ouv du,namai avnasta.j dou/nai, soiÅ

And that one from inside having a

8 le,gw u`mi/n( eiv kai. ouv dw,sei aurtw/| avnasta.j dia. to. ei=nai fi,lon aurtou/( dia, ge th.n avnai,deian aurtou/ evgerqei.j dw,sei aurtw/| o[swn crh,|zeiÅ

9 Kavgw. u`mi/n le,gw( aivtei/te kai. doqh,setai u`mi/n( zhtei/te kai. eu`rh,sete( krou,ete kai. avnoigh,setai u`mi/n\

10 pa/j ga.r o` aivtw/n lamba,nei kai. o` zhtw/n eu`ri,skei kai. tw/| krou,onti avnoigÎh,sDetaiÅ

11 ti,na de. evx u`mw/n to.n pate,ra aivth,sei o` ui`o.j ivcqu,n( kai. avnti. ivcqu,oj o;fin aurtw/| evpidw,seiÈ

12 h' kai. aivth,sei wv|o,n( evpidw,sei aurtw/| skorpi,onÈ

13 eiv ou=n u`mei/j ponhroi. u`pa,rcontej oi;date do,mata avgaqa. dido,nai toi/j te,knoij u`mw/n( po,sw| ma//lon o` path.r Îo`Ð evx ouvranou/ dw,sei pneu/ma a[gion toi/j aivtou/sin aurtou,nÅ

pray for what God knows we need

Boldly

Trusting God's love and provision

What is a christian life like

Attitude

**"Lord, teach us to pray,**

TEACH - need help

Acknowledging weakness

Acknowledging sin

Acknowledging God's love and power

Live in attitude

God gives

love, and spirit

INTRO - Many of you know that I have been out of town, along with my wife and two children. I want you to know that while I was gone I worked to stay healthy. We ate lots of good food, seafood, vegetables, and fruit. We got more exercise than normal. We worked to get sleep, though, it didn't always happen.

We worked to live healthy lives while Gone.

I. Today's Gospel lesson is about prayer, but more than that it is a blue print for a healthy Christian life.

A. Jesus is asked by the disciples how to pray, and he gives 3 answers.

1. First, he calls on them to pray for, and to pursue in their lives SPIRITUAL growth over growth of possessions or accomplishments. When someone prays for God's name to be holy, for His will to be done, for forgiveness and God's kingdom to come, they are seeking to live pursuing the Lord and His goals for our life. Even asking only for daily bread is an acknowledgment that our relationship with God is more important than our possessions.

2. Secondly, Jesus tells a parable about a man who goes to a friend in the middle of the night. He tells this parable because most people would not be so bold to wake someone up to ask for bread. But, Jesus calls his disciples to be bold in their prayer and their pursuit of a Godly spirit filled life.

3. Finally Jesus calls for faith and trust. We know our failings, and yet we care for our children. God does not have failing. When we pray He will give us the Spirit, he will give us faith.

4. When we seek to grow in spiritually, to act boldly, and to believe strongly, we are seeking a healthy Christian life.

B. I have told you all year long that this year I am preaching about what the Christian life looks like.

1. Maybe you see that Jesus, while emphasizing behavior, even more is emphasizing attitude.

2. Jesus is calling for His children to seek to do God's will, not our own. Jesus calls Christians to boldly pursue God's help, because our hearts and minds trust and believe in the love and goodness of God in their lives.

3. In many ways a Christian life is a life of prayer, constantly seeking God's will for our lives.

4. But, before our actions can serve God, our attitude, our hearts and minds need to be in order. We seek an attitude of holiness, of boldness and faith.

II. While I sought to live in a healthy manner outwardly while on vacation, sometimes what happens inside is bigger and more important. Both Kathy and I were exposed to a cold, and we have come down with runny noses, sore throats, and headaches. All our outward efforts were still foiled somewhat by that which was working inside us.

A. We may seek to live Godly lives, lives of prayer, lives seeking God's will, but the inside may work against our efforts.

1. Even with the best of intentions our sinful nature can show itself.

2. Ask any parent. They love their children, but sometimes they become impatient, or angry, and that attitude inside that was hidden, can undo all the outward intentional efforts.

B. The Christian life is actions that follow Godly attitudes of faith and love.

1. But even our best intentions and our best efforts can be undercut by our sinful nature.

2. Our sin is stronger than our own desires.

3. While we may seek attitudes of holiness, and boldness, and faith, attitudes like selfishness, fear, and doubt, or greed or envy, are right there seeking to

overcome setting our hearts to live for God.

III. But I know from experience with many colds that, as I have overcome other colds I will overcome this one. Not only is there a virus working inside me, there are also antibodies and white blood cells. They are there working even when I am not thinking health.

- A. Perhaps the best example of Christians attitude and living in our lesson for today comes from the disciples and is summed up in one phrase, "**Lord, teach us to pray**"
  - 1. When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them, they were acknowledging their lack of knowledge and lack of ability. They acknowledged their weakness and their sin.
  - 2. But, as they called Jesus "Lord" and went to Him for help, they were also acknowledging Jesus' love and power
- B. And Jesus promises to act.
  - 1. He promises to always answer when His disciples ask, seek, and knock.
  - 2. **13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**" Jesus promises the Holy Spirit.
  - 3. When Jesus' followers admit their own sin and go to Him in humility, acknowledging their weakness, He is there to strengthen us, and to answer our prayers.

CONCLUSION - If I really got sick, I would not just wait for this cold to pass, I would go to a doctor. With their training and medicines my hope is they would use the natural healing powers God created in my body to help me to get better.

This year we are looking at how Christians are called to live. This points to attitudes of humility, confession, and faith. As we confess our weakness, but seek God's help and God's will God will strengthen us to do with his help, what we cannot do on our own.