

Series: Gospel Of Luke

Sunday, February 15. Read our daily sermon reflections on GCC's app (under Devotionals) or at gardiner.church/devotions

1. PRAY WITH SHAMELESS A

(Luke 11:5-8; Hebrews 4:16)

- In Jesus' first parable, he describes a man pounding on the door of his friend, in the middle of the night, without hesitation or apology. Rather than being condemned, Jesus celebrates the actions of this man, noting that he gets what he needs – not because of friendship, but because of his shameless audacity.
- What would change if you prayed with such shameless audacity – knowing that you're always welcome, always heard, always loved?

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2. PRAY WITH P

(Luke 18:1-5)

- A widow with no power, influence or legal standing comes before a crooked judge, who denies her mercy. Yet she refuses to give up or be silenced. She keeps coming, keeps asking, keeps believing her voice and cause matters. Jesus tells us to "pray and not give up"—not because God is reluctant, but because persistent prayer trains us in dependence and reveals the depth of our trust.
- *"The great point is to never give up until the answer comes."*
- George Müller (who prayed for 63+ years for a friend's conversion)
- What have you stopped praying for because you haven't seen an answer yet? What would it look like to bring that request back to God with renewed faith?

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Turn page over for #3

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3. PRAY TO A GOOD AND G FATHER

(Luke 11:9-13; 18:8; Matthew 7:11; see also James 1:17; 4:2-3; 1 Timothy 6:17; 1 John 1:14-15)

- Here's the stunning contrast: If a grumpy friend responds to shameless audacity and an unjust judge responds to relentless nagging, how much more will your good and generous Father respond to you? When you pray, God isn't reluctant or annoyed, but rather eager to give, and especially to give the great gift of the Holy Spirit.
- But God is also a Father, and not a vending machine. James 4:2-3 reminds us of two reasons that we may not receive from God: 1. We don't ask at all, or 2. We ask with the wrong motives. In both of these parables, we see the real needs of hospitality and justice, not selfish desires. When we pray according to God's will, we align our hearts with His good purposes, and we can trust He hears and answers perfectly (1 John 5:14-15). How does knowing God is infinitely better than the best earthly parent change the way you approach Him in prayer? Are you praying just to get what you want, or, to align your desires with His will?

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Application For This Week: Choose one thing you've given up praying about and commit to bringing it before God every day this week—not to wear Him down, but to practice shameless, relentless faith in a good and generous Father. Ask according to His will.

Prayer: “Father, teach us to pray like children who know they're welcome at any hour. Give us faith that refuses to give up, and eyes to see Your generous heart. We ask not just for answers, but for more of You—Your presence, Your Spirit, Your love. Shape our prayers according to Your will. In Jesus' name, Amen.”

Verses To Meditate On This Week:

“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. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” – Luke 11:9-10

Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. – Luke 18:1

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