

**Scriptures:** Ten Commandments (Deut. 5) – Luke 11:1-13  
**Singing:** 60:1-3 – 140:1 – 235:1-3 – 322:1, 4 – 4313-4

- A. The Christian life is a like a race (1 Cor. 9:24-27)
1. You cannot be a Christian without Jesus Christ
    - a. living separated from Him is being like dead, dry branch
    - b. God has no pleasure that you continue to remain like this
    - c. only when we receive His gift in faith, will we be a real Christian
- B. None can successfully compete in any race without doing the right things.
1. One of main spiritually right things to do is prayer
    - a. Jesus prayed often: Luke 3:21 - 5:16 - 6:12 - 9:18 - 9:29
    - b. His example is to *teach as well as to encourage us*

## JESUS' TEACHING ON PRAYER

### I. To occasion II. The Parable III. The Encouragement

#### I. THE OCCASION OF THE LESSON

- A. The occasion was that the disciples saw and heard their Master pray (vs. 1)
1. Sight convicted them deeply (not sure they *heard* Him pray)
- B. The occasion was their request: *teach us to pray* (vs. 1)
1. Why do we need to ask this?
    - a. because the world is toxic to prayer
    - b. because having all outward things, prayer feels less important
    - c. because guilty conscience hinders prayers
    - d. because we may not know power of prayer
    - e. because we tend to be proud (Me do it!)
    - f. because we often are too lazy

#### II. THE PARABLE

- A. The problem of the embarrassed and needy (vs. 5-6)
1. Notice *how* this neighbor failed (vs 7)
  2. Notice *how* persistent the beggar was (vs. 8)

B. Jesus' parable has one main point

1. When you pray to God, don't think God is like that 'friend in bed'

a. God's character is your greatest encouragement to pray to Him (vs. 13)

● Ps. 86:5 *For thou art good and ready to forgive: and plenteous in mercy unto all that call upon thee!*

● Ps. 72:12 *For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper*

2. God may *wait to answer our prayer* but never because He does not care

### **III. The encouragement**

A. The 'ask-see-knock' is a *command that is ongoing*

B. The ask-see-knock' is like *three layers*

1. **in asking** you plead **God's promises you know**

2. **in seeking** we pray for things we don't have a promise or direction

3. **in knocking** it gets clear who is really serious about seeking!

C. The encouragement of vs. 11-13 is like Ps. 81:10

*Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it*

**Final take-away:** We can all agree on the need for the work of Holy Spirit

A. Notice Jesus' assuring promise (vs. 13)

B. But don't forget Jesus' clear direction (vs. 9-10)

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Prayer is not the least we can do: it is the most!

We need to people to whom prayer is the first and not the last thing we do.