

PROMISES WORTH KEEPING

Prayer

...it's not what, but how



SERMON NOTES
SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Luke 11:1-13

LUKE 11:1-13 (NRSV)

¹He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." ²So he said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, may your name be revered as holy. May your kingdom come. ³Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial." ⁵And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' ⁸I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. ⁹So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Who taught you to pray?

How does the "Lord's Prayer" differ in Luke's Gospel from Matthew's version?

What are the key ingredients Jesus includes in how he instructs the disciples to pray?

What do we learn about praying from Jesus' analogy of the 'friend at midnight'?

What promises do you hear in Jesus' encouragement to 'ask, search, and knock'?

Jesus compares the love of a parent for their children when talking about God's love. What do you hear about the depth and breadth of God's love?