

## LEARNING TO PRAY

Luke 11:1-13

June 8, 2008 Sunday p.m.

### INTRODUCTION

- A. Big Ed goes to the revival and listens to the preacher. After a while the preacher asks anyone with needs to come forward to be prayed over. Big Ed gets in line. When it's his turn, the preacher says, "Big Ed, what do you want me to pray about?"  
Big Ed says, "Preacher, I need you to pray for my hearing."  
So the preacher puts one finger in Big Ed's ear and the other hand on top of his head and shouts, hollers, and prays a while.  
After a few minutes, he removes his hands and says, "Big Ed, how's your hearing now?"  
Big Ed says, "I don't know preacher, it's not until next Wednesday at the County Courthouse."
- B. Of all the things the disciples could have asked Jesus to teach them, like how to teach or perform miracles, they asked instead, "Teach us to pray"—v.1.
- C. Jesus' answer involved three things about prayer.

### I. FIRST, JESUS GIVES US A "PLAN" FOR PRAYER.

- A. Jesus' prayer plan has five steps.
  - 1. Praise—2a.
  - 2. Purpose—2b (Remember God's ultimate purpose is his Kingdom).
  - 3. Physical needs—3.  
**Phil. 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.**
  - 4. Spiritual needs—4a.
  - 5. Protection—4b.
- B. Do you have a prayer plan? What, when, and where?

### II. SECOND, JESUS GIVES US A "PARABLE" FOR PRAYER.

- A. Charles Kuralt used to produce fascinating TV stories about his travels across America. In his book, *On the Road with Charles Kuralt*, he tells about a time he and his crew visited the chapel of Maria Angelorum in La Crosse, Wisconsin. There the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration have been praying *without interruption* for a hundred years! Every hour of every day and night for a century, two sisters have been on their knees, side by side, always praying for the same things—for an end to sickness and hunger, for an end to social injustice, for wisdom in high places, for their city and their country, for their friends, for their enemies, for all people, including you and me—always ending, "Bring peace to the world."

Sister Mileta first took her place in this chain of prayer in 1915. Kuralt asked her, "So you're just going to go on praying for another hundred years?" Sister Mileta answered, "Hopefully, yes. Hopefully, we can go on for another hundred years, and perhaps another hundred years, till the end of time."

*Lee Eclov, Lake Forest, Illinois; source: Charles Kuralt, On the Road with Charles Kuralt (Fawcett Books, 1985)*

- B. Like these Sisters, the point of Jesus' parable is persistence—5-8.

### III. THIRD, JESUS GIVES US A “PROMISE” FOR PRAYER.

- A. The opening night of a Crusade at Shea Stadium in New York, the airplanes from La Guardia Airport flew over the stadium, dozens by the hour. On the opening night of training, the Reverend Billy Graham started talking with us from the podium as the engines roared overhead. He paused, glanced up and quietly said, "We'll have to do something about this noise. This just won't do." He bowed his head and said a simple prayer to the effect: "Lord, we ask you to shift the wind and send these planes in another direction. Thank You. Amen."
- The morning newspaper reported that the winds had changed during the night, and the airplanes over Shea Stadium had to be routed another way. At the conclusion of the crusade, the winds reverted to their normal flow, and the airplanes returned to their normal flight patterns.
- Bobbye Byerly, *Miracles Happen When Women Pray* (Regal, 2002, p. 20); submitted by Jennifer M. Scott, Carol Stream, Illin
- B. How did Billy Graham pray like that? He knew the promise of prayer—9-13.

### CONCLUSION

- A. Jesus wants all Christians to pray, that's why he taught his disciples how to pray.
- B. Remember his pray lessons....
1. The plan.
  2. The purpose.
  3. The promise.
- C. "Lord, teach us to pray too".