

Sermon Outline July 14, 2013

“Praying with Passion”

Luke 11:5-13

- I. Note its root, its source; the well spring from which PASSION in prayer flows is our WEAKNESS, our LACK, our NEED –

We would like to think our passion in prayer comes from personal spiritual strength, yet this passages speaks the truth -

⁵ And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; ⁶ for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him';

- A. You have a friend who has come on a journey, your responsibility is to show hospitality
- B. Here expressed is the heart of your problem – “I have nothing”

1. This is something we see throughout Scripture –
 - A. This is what Jacob feels when Esau his enemy / brother is coming to meet him with 400 men – Genesis 32
 - B. It is lack or weakness that Hezekiah feels when Jerusalem is surrounded by the Assyria army – Isaiah 37 or when he is on his death bed – Isaiah 38
 - C. It is expressed in what we see prayed –

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, (Ephesians 3:14-16 NKJ)

Why does Paul pray that the Ephesians would be strengthened? Because they NEEDED strengthening and they NEEDED strengthening because they were weak!

Similarly he tells them –

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His

might. (Ephesian 6:10 NKJ)

Why do we NEED such strengthening? Because we are weak, we lack strength!

2. Weakness being the power of our passion in prayer is something many of us KNOW experientially!

- II. Note God wants us to communicate our weakness, our need to Him –

⁸ "I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs. ⁹ "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Luke 11:8-10

This passage starts with a real social need -

1. A shameless expression –

⁸ "I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs. (Luke 11:8 NKJ)

The Greek word translated “persistence” is 35 ἀναίδεια anaideia {an-ah'-ee-die-ah'}

Meaning: 1) shamelessness, impudence

- A. First, it was normal a friend would help in such a situation
- B. Yet, if he WOULD NOT help because of friendship, surely he would help because of persistence, shamelessness ...

What is portrayed here is something extreme, maybe embarrassing, a waking of the neighbors, etc...

2. An escalating expression –

- A. Ask – a humble request
- B. Seek – a humble request with action connected to it
- C. Knock – knocking is something beyond mere seeking, it implies you know from whence, from WHOM your prayer will be answered ... it

implies desperation

III. *Note, the Most Important thing communicated here is God is more able, more willing than any of our friends at midnight, to answer our prayers –*

"If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish?"¹² "Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?"¹³ "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:11-13 NKJ)

1. *A friend would answer, but God is a Father*
2. *Even at midnight, but God never sleeps*

I will lift up my eyes to the hills-- From whence comes my help?

² **My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.**

³ **He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.**

⁴ **Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep.**

⁵ **The LORD is your keeper; The LORD is your shade at your right hand.** (Psalm 121:1-5 NKJ)

3. *We may answer our friends in regard to such hospitality needs, slight needs, when we come to God rightly, are not we often coming with much greater needs?*

Point is, we'd help each other! We should EXPECT our infinitely compassionate Heavenly Father would help!

³¹ **What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?** ³² **He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?** (Romans 8:31-32 NKJ)

4. *We are often selfish and sinful, yet still we give "good things" How much MORE does God give? He gives all, according to Jesus; even the HOLY SPIRIT –*

A. *This would have referred to a future giving of God's Spirit –*

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink."³⁸ "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (John 7:37-39 NKJ)

B. *Yet, for us, I believe it also refers to a regular filling with God's Spirit, His gifts, His strengthening, etc...*

C. *Additionally this includes all other "good things" –*

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! (Matthew 7:11 NKJ)

The argument from the less to the greater is unanswerable. It clinches all that proceeds regarding the assurance that our prayers to our Father will be heard. As earthly fathers prove themselves fathers by giving "good gifts" to their children, so your Father proves to you that he is, indeed, your Father, and you are, indeed, his children by giving to you, in answer to your asking in your need, ἀγαθά, things beneficial to you, as Matthew has it, or as Luke has it, "the Holy Spirit," who at once names the highest and greatest spiritual gift that involves every other spiritual gift and certainly thus also every necessary temporal gift, for these lie on the lowest plane. ...

The supreme and the extreme are often used in the Scriptures so as to include all that is less. ... The force of the argument is strengthened by the concessive "you being wicked," which humbles the disciples and reminds them of all their sins and thus throws into bolder relief "the Father from heaven" who is all-holy and all-righteous. R.H. Lenski

IV. *It is important also to note the context of this –*

... And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." (Luke 11:4 NKJ)

And He was casting out a demon, and it was mute. So it was, when the demon had gone out, that the mute spoke; and the multitudes marveled. (Luke 11:14 NKJ)

Arnold A. Brevick