

A • S • K (Part 1)

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 11:1-4



Big Idea

In the Lord's prayer, Jesus lays out for us what seems to be a pattern with ordered priorities. We must learn from Him here. He teaches us to Adore (v. 2a); Surrender (v. 2b); and Knock (vv. 3-4). In other words, He is teaching us to A • S • K.

Critical to the pattern our Lord lays down for us here, I do believe, is the order of these things. There seems to be a sort of prioritization taking place in what Jesus gives us here.

1. First we must come to know God as loving, gracious, powerful, providing "Father" (**Adore**).
2. And as we do so, we find that we will long for Him to be lifted up and seen in the world—we happily surrender our names and kingdoms that His name might be hallowed, and His kingdom might come (**Surrender**). We want others to enjoy what we do in Him.
3. And, then, with these two priorities in place, we see our own requests (**Knock**) not as demands—as if from a master to an errand boy—but as opportunities. With our requests we are actually giving God ways in which He can hallow His name and bring His kingdom in and through our own lives. As we shall see, God loves to glorify Himself by providing for the needs His people. Your requests and needs are not contrary to a concern for His glory, they become one of the main stages upon which His glory can be displayed!

(1) Adore

If we are not praying, it is usually because either: (1) We don't think ourselves desperate enough; or (2) We don't think our God good enough. Or to put it another way: We don't pray because either (1) We think we can handle it (not desperate enough); or (2) We think God will not help (not good enough). Perhaps it's always a mix of both. But here this morning, of course, I'm focusing us in on that second point. We don't think God is really all that interested in helping. We don't think of Him as a good, as the perfect, Dad. And as a result, we don't pray, at least not in the manner Jesus prescribes here. So the place to start in prayer is with this: Adoration—an awareness of and delight in all that God is for you—that He loves you, that He is "Father".

(2) Surrender

"Hallowed be your name"—To pray for God's name to be hallowed is to pray that all that He is would be seen and revered in the world.

"Your kingdom come"—If hallowing His name is God's chief passion, bringing in His kingdom is God's chief purpose. It is what He has been after since the beginning, it's what He will bring to fruition in the end. And here we are invited to partner with God in it through prayer. "It's as humbling as it is fascinating to consider that God advances his kingdom agenda through the prayers of his people" (Erik Raymond).

Reflection Questions



- Would you say that you know God as good Father, or do you find yourself a bit suspicious of Him? Be honest. Why do think? Why does our entire prayer life key off of this idea? What can you do to cultivate adoration in place of suspicion?
- When's the last time you lost sleep because God's name is not hallowed among the nations? Have you ever? When I lose sleep it's usually with concern for my own name in one way or another. Why are we often this way? What needs to change? How can Jesus help?