

A • S • K (Part 2)

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.

The image of a person knocking comes from the parable that immediately follows Jesus' prayer here in vv. 5-10. Consider v. 9 there where Jesus sums it up this way: "And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." Jesus is inviting us to bring our real selves to the real God and find real help for our real needs. Don't hide your need. Don't hide your mess. Don't hide your fears. Be a kid and run to your dad for help. "Knock son, daughter. I'm going to open."

(1) Provision (v. 3)

As human beings, but especially as Americans, we don't want "just enough". We don't want just today's bread, we want it for the next week, the next month, the next year. We want to know we have everything lined up; that we will be provided for for the rest of our days; that we are secure. But here is where this prayer for "daily" bread comes in to help. God is not willing to give us all of this if it means we will forfeit on the thing He cares most about, relationship. Instead He encourages us to pray in a way that keeps us relying daily upon Him. And His commitment is to provide for us *just enough*.

What we come to find is that we are not less secure because we are daily dependent, we are more so, because we are with God, our Father, who is daily faithful.

(2) Pardon (v. 4a)

The transition from daily bread to forgiveness of sin is a pointer towards the reality that just as we need bread every day, so also do we need forgiveness.

We also see here that we can't be right with God if we are wrong with our fellow man. We can't come and bless God while, at the same time, cursing our neighbor. A thriving relationship with God manifests itself in love, in grace, in an understanding and forgiving spirit, even for those who've hurt us, even if we may be in the right. God was in the right, and He would've been perfectly just to remain in heaven and let the world go to hell (literally). But He sent His Son. He came down. And we cannot truly receive His movement toward us if we are not ready to let Him carry us in that same movement towards others.

(3) Protection (v. 4b)

The basic sense here is: "God give us strength to walk away from sin, even in the most trying of circumstances. Don't let us give way under pressure. Help us resist. Keep us. Protect us. We don't just want forgiveness with regard to the *penalty* of sin, we want freedom from its *power*."

Reflection Questions



- There are always two ways you can go in the face of trial: You can raise a fist or you can raise a hand. You can throw blows at God or you can throw yourself into His loving arms. Which way have you been going lately? Why do you think?
- Are you *praying with the plurals* ("us", "our") of this text? Do you have this sort of community? Are you a part of a Home Group here? Are there people in this church who know how to meaningfully pray for you? Are there people in this church whom you know how to meaningfully pray for? What steps can you take to move towards this?