

A • S • K (Part 3)

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 11:1-13



Big Idea

God is ready and happy to give to all who would seek Him through Christ. Jesus is inviting us to barge in and “bother” our Father because He knows that God will engage us in our place of need and, ultimately, give us Himself.

(1) God Is Ready and Happy to Give

With this parable, what is it that Jesus is saying about prayer and God? Well, to be clear, He is not saying that God is like this man yelling out from his bed. He is not saying that God is tired, selfish, and reluctant to give, but if we badger Him enough, we shall probably be able to rouse Him and get what we want. Jesus is making what we might call a *lesser to greater* argument. The idea is this: If even this tired, selfish, reluctant man will finally get up and give his friend what he is bugging him for, *HOW MUCH MORE* will your Father—who never sleeps, who is always thinking of you, who is ready and happy to give to you—how much more will He give to you what you are asking of Him?!

(2) Why Does It Often Feel Like He Isn't?

(1) Because We Don't Ask—The first thing we must address is whether we are actually asking anything of God in the first place. It might be that we do not know God as ready and happy to give because we actually rarely ever ask Him for things (cf. James 4:2). We feel like much of what concerns us is too small or insignificant for Him. We don't realize that He wants to be “bothered” with every detail.

(2) Because We Ask Wrongly—The idea here, simply put, is that you ask God for things all right, but not with any concern for Him or others (cf. James 4:3). You just want His stuff and you've heard that prayer might be an effective way of getting at it. Sometimes, one of the most loving things God can do is withhold, because oftentimes this is what wakes us up and brings us back to Him.

(3) Because He Has Something Better—When you go to pray, you don't just ask once or twice for a thing and then, when it doesn't happen, quit. No. You keep asking, and seeking, and knocking. Keep pressing in and, as you do, something surprising will happen: You will meet with God! God opens the door to Himself as it were and you will never be the same. At the end, whether you do or don't get exactly what you were asking for, none of that will matter all that much anymore. You shall have God, and that is always the point of prayer.

(4) Because He's Telling a Longer Story—The whole story of Israel, from Egypt to Canaan, is invoked in the lines of this prayer Jesus is teaching us. He wants us to remember their story as we go to pray. God is telling a longer story than we know. Prayers we would consider unanswered today, may very well be answered tomorrow, perhaps in ways we would never expect. Our Father walks with us through this unfolding story, through the good and the hard . . . to the end!

Reflection Questions



- God is ready and happy to give. Do you believe this? How do you know it to be true? How has it been tested in your life? How is it being tested right now?
- Do you feel wrong or selfish praying for a parking spot? Why is it important that we bring these mundane requests to God? What happens if the prayer doesn't “work”?
- If God gave you everything you asked for, it would destroy you. Do you believe this? How has God used unanswered prayers to bring you closer to Himself?
- How does locating your prayer life within the context of a longer, unfolding story help? What does Israel's story teach us about the tension we often feel in prayer? How does this speak into what you are facing right now?