



## The Words of Jesus Series

# Prayer & Wickedness

Persistent Prayer is Effective but the Wicked are Doomed

**Context:** Luke 11,

### Outline

#### Lesson 1 – Persistent Prayer

(Luke 11:1-13)

#### Lesson 2 – Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

(Luke 11:14-26, Luke 12:1-12)

#### Lesson 3 – Wicked Generation

(Luke 11:27-54)

Jesus teaches on prayer at the request of His disciples. Jesus strongly responds to accusations from the Pharisees.

### Suggested methodology for each lesson:

1. Fellowship
2. Take prayer requests
3. Pray
4. Read the lesson text aloud from the Bible (You may want to do this one question at a time.)
5. Answer and briefly discuss the “fill in the blank” questions. Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer.
6. On the final “Think & Pray” question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.
7. Discuss your Think & Pray answers. Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.
8. Close in prayer
9. Fellowship

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called “For Further Thought”



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**Lesson 1 – Persistent Prayer** (Luke 11:1-13)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[1A] Luke 11:1 What had Jesus just been doing when His disciples asked to be taught to pray? \_\_\_\_\_

[1B] Luke 11:2 To Whom should we address our prayers? \_\_\_\_\_

[1C] Luke 11:3 How much bread should we ask for? \_\_\_\_\_

[1D] Luke 11:4 What commitment should we make? \_\_\_\_\_

[1E] Luke 11:5 What did the friend request? \_\_\_\_\_

[1F] Luke 11:6 Who had come from a journey? \_\_\_\_\_

[1G] Luke 11:7-8 What will get the reluctant friend out of his bed? \_\_\_\_\_

[1H] Luke 11:9-10 What happens if we seek? \_\_\_\_\_

[1I] Luke 11:9-10 What will happen if we ask? \_\_\_\_\_

[1J] Luke 11:11 What will a child asking for a fish receive? \_\_\_\_\_

[1K] Luke 11:12 What will a child asking for an egg receive? \_\_\_\_\_

[1L] Luke 11:13 What will the Father give us if we ask? \_\_\_\_\_

[1N] Compare Luke 11:5-13 & Luke 18:1-7 & Matthew 6:7-8 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:8-10. Are we supposed to be persistent in prayer or not?

Think & Pray \_\_\_\_\_

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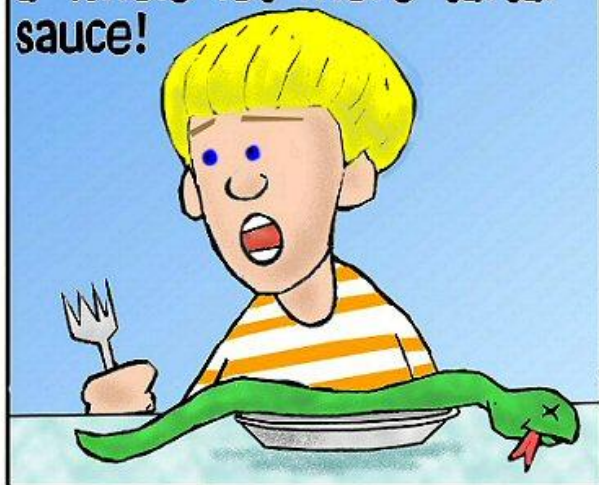
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**THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON**

**MOM, this is gonna need a whole lot more tartar sauce!**



<http://thebackpew.com>

If your kids ask for 'Fish' .. would you give them a snake? **Luke 11:11**

**THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON**



<http://thebackpew.com>

Knock, and the door will be opened. **Luke 11:9**, and ya doesn't hasta knock it down!

### **Lesson 1 – Persistent Prayer**

- [1A] Luke 11:1 What had Jesus just been doing when His disciples asked to be taught to pray? Praying
- [1B] Luke 11:2 To Whom should we address our prayers? The Father
- [1C] Luke 11:3 How much bread should we ask for? Just what we need
- [1D] Luke 11:4 What commitment should we make? To forgive everyone
- [1E] Luke 11:5 What did the friend request? Three loaves of bread on loan
- [1F] Luke 11:6 Who had come from a journey? Another friend
- [1G] Luke 11:7-8 What will get the reluctant friend out of his bed? Persistence
- [1H] Luke 11:9-10 What happens if we seek? We will find
- [1I] Luke 11:9-10 What will happen if we ask? We will receive
- [1J] Luke 11:11 What will a child asking for a fish receive? Not a snake
- [1K] Luke 11:12 What will a child asking for an egg receive? Not a scorpion
- [1L] Luke 11:13 What will the Father give us if we ask? The Holy Spirit

[1N] I think it depends on your heart. What motivates us to be persistent? Or if we are not persistent, why not? Are we praying over and over again because we think we can pester God into an answer? Are we giving up because we are angry and frustrated? Are we persistent because we think it depends on us? Do we quit praying because we trust God to have heard us? Do we persist because we trust His word about persistence in prayer? Are we praying motivated by love or impatience? You know your heart. What are you praying for and why?

### **For further thought:**

- (1o) What does "Holy Spirit" in Luke 11:12-13 mean?
- (1p) Compare Luke 11:2-4 with Matthew 6:9-13. What is different? What is the same? So what?
- (1q) In the story Jesus tells in Luke 11:5-8 which of the characters is more like you? Are you the asker, the friend being asked, the visitor from out of town, or tucked away securely in bed?
- (1r) Luke 11:7 makes it sound like opening a door was a significant task. Is this possible? So what?
- (1s) Compare Luke 11:9-13 with Matthew 7:7-11. What is being given by the Father? Why is it different?
- (1t) In 2 Corinthians 12:8-10 Paul quit praying after three times. In Matthew 26:36-46 Jesus quit praying after three times. Does that mean we should quit praying after three times? Why or why not?

**Lesson 2 – Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit** (Luke 11:14-26, Luke 12:1-12)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[2A] Luke 11:14-15 What name did they give the ruler of the demons? \_\_\_\_\_

[2B] Luke 11:16-17 What happens to a kingdom divided against itself? \_\_\_\_\_

[2C] Luke 11:18-19 Who will be the judges of Jesus' accusers? \_\_\_\_\_

[2D] Luke 11:20 If Jesus' power is from God what had come upon them? \_\_\_\_\_

[2E] Luke 11:21-22 In the struggle described what does the victor win? \_\_\_\_\_

[2F] Luke 11:23-25 What happens if a demon returns and finds his former place empty?  
\_\_\_\_\_

[2G] Luke 12:1 What is the leaven of the Pharisees? \_\_\_\_\_

[2H] Luke 12:2-3 What will be proclaimed from the housetops? \_\_\_\_\_

[2I] Luke 12:4 Who should we not fear? \_\_\_\_\_

[2J] Luke 12:5 Who should we fear? \_\_\_\_\_

[2K] Luke 12:6-7 What are we more valuable than? \_\_\_\_\_

[2L] Luke 12:8-10 What is unforgivable? \_\_\_\_\_

[2M] Luke 12:11-12 Who will teach them to say what they need to say when they need to say it?  
\_\_\_\_\_

[2N] What are Matthew 12:32, Mark 3:29 and Luke 12:10 talking about?  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**The Back Pew – Jeff Larson**



Gary is no longer a time-share for the dark forces described in **Luke 11:24-26**, but instead fills his mind and time with the things of **Philippians 4:8**



## Lesson 2 – Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

[2A] Luke 11:14-15 What name did they give the ruler of the demons? Beelzebul

[2B] Luke 11:16-17 What happens to a kingdom divided against itself? It falls

[2C] Luke 11:18-19 Who will be the judges of Jesus' accusers? Their children

[2D] Luke 11:20 If Jesus' power is from God what had come upon them? The Kingdom of God

[2E] Luke 11:21-22 In the struggle described what does the victor win?

The armor being relied on for false security

[2F] Luke 11:23-25 What happens if a demon returns and finds his former place empty?

He invites his friends to move in with him

[2G] Luke 12:1 What is the leaven of the Pharisees? Hypocrisy

[2H] Luke 12:2-3 What will be proclaimed from the housetops? What was whispered in the inner rooms

[2I] Luke 12:4 Who should we not fear? Those who may kill us

[2J] Luke 12:5 Who should we fear? He Who has authority to send us to hell

[2K] Luke 12:6-7 What are we more valuable than? Sparrows

[2L] Luke 12:8-10 What is unforgivable? Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

[2M] Luke 12:11-12 Who will teach them to say what they need to say when they need to say it?

The Holy Spirit

[2N] I don't know what they mean, but I hope y'all had a good discussion. It might mean that if you speak badly about the Holy Spirit you are going straight to hell, but I hope not. I've heard a lot of different theories about blaspheming the Holy Spirit, but the one I like best is the idea that we are saved by the conviction of the Holy Spirit, so if we resist Him until we die, and reject Jesus Christ our entire life, we are in fact unsaved because we have disrespected the Holy Spirit to the point of ignoring Him completely. Whatever it means, the safe choice is to not speak ill of God. We must be careful here. Satan would love for us to believe we have done something unforgivable. I say, if there is breath, there is hope. Why would God allow us to continue breathing unless He still had some purpose for us?

### For further thought:

(2o) What does "finger of God" mean in Luke 11:20?

(2p) In Luke 11:23-25 is it implying that if someone does not invite the Holy Spirit in after a demon has been cast out, his situation will become worse, not better? Why or why not?

(2q) Does the promise in Luke 12:11-12 apply to us? If so, in what circumstances? If not, why not?

(2r) In Luke 11:21-22 the defeated loses the very armor he was relying on to keep him safe. Does that have a spiritual significance? What are you relying on to be safe?

(2s) What does Luke 12:2-3 mean?

(2t) Please re-read Luke 12:4-5. Which do you fear more death or God? Why?

(2u) Compare Luke 12:2-7 with Matthew 10:26-30. What is the same? What is different? So what?



### Lesson 3 – Wicked Generation

[3A] Luke 11:27-28 Those are blessed who hear the word of God and do what? Observe it (Obey it)

[3B] Luke 11:16 & Luke 11:29 What was their motive in asking for a sign? To test Him

[3C] Luke 11:30-32 Who preached to the people of Nineveh? Jonah

[3D] Luke 11:33-36 Who lights a lamp and puts it under a basket? No one

[3E] Luke 11:37 Who invited Jesus to have lunch with him? A Pharisee

[3F] Luke 11:38-41 Who made the inside and outside? God

[3G] Luke 11:42 What do the Pharisees disregard? Justice and the love of God

[3H] Luke 11:43 What two things do they love? Good seats and respectful greetings

[3I] Luke 11:44 What are they like? Hidden grave sites

[3J] Luke 11:45-46 What do the lawyers do? Weigh men down with burdens they will not lift

[3K] Luke 11:47-51 Whose blood was on the lawyers' hands? The prophets

[3L] Luke 11:52 What key to the lawyers withhold? Key to knowledge while remaining ignorant

[3M] Luke 11:53-54 How did the lawyers (scribes) and Pharisees receive Jesus speech?

They began to plot to trick, trap and kill Him

[3N] Here is what I found:

- Given credit to the wrong person. (Luke 11:27)
- Demanding additional proof when sufficient evidence had already been presented just because of a desire to avoid the consequences of the other person being right or because of simple pride. (Luke 11:29-32)
- Failing to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ at an opportune moment. (Luke 11:33)
- Looking for what was wrong with others instead of what is good about them. (Luke 11:34-36)
- Focusing on looking righteous instead of being righteous. (Luke 11:37-41)
- Following the rules of religion while neglecting justice and love. (Luke 11:42)
- Seeking after privileges. (Luke 11:43)
- Doing evil in secret. (Luke 11:44)
- Shirking hard work by scheming to get others to do it. (Luke 11:45)
- Speaking against church leaders or other Godly people when it is expedient to do so. (Luke 11:46-51)
- Using knowledge against people instead of sharing it for everyone's benefit. (Luke 11:52)
- Conspiring with others to do harm to someone (11:53-54) Luke is preaching this one, not Jesus.

I'm ashamed to admit I have done all but three of these. (Maybe I did them all and just conveniently forgot doing them.) I've confessed and repented. How about you?

#### For further thought:

(3o) Compare Luke 11:27-28 with Luke 1:42-45. Which is better? Being Jesus' mother or being Jesus' disciple?

(3p) Compare Luke 11:33-36 with Matthew 5:15, Mark 4:21, and Luke 8:16-17. What did you learn?

(3q) Compare Luke 11:33-36 with Matthew 6:22-23. What did you learn?

(3r) Does Luke 11:38-41 say that it is better to give stuff away so you won't have to wash it? If so, why? If not, what does it say?

(3s) What did you learn in this course that you would like to remember?

(3t) If someone asked you what this course was about, what would you tell them?

(3u) What scripture from this course would be best to memorize? Why?