

Sun., May 8 - Mother's Day

Message: Luke 4 Rejected 3: "Prayer in Practice" - Panel (Marilee, Reese & Sherry)

Scripture: Luke 11:1-28

Blurb: Three mothers make up our message panel this week as we listen to Luke 11:1-18. The theme is Prayer in Practice, and after hearing Jesus teach us how to pray, we also hear how we are to live by prayer. Jesus also talks about spiritual warfare, but it all comes down to putting God's word into practice. This Sunday we listen to the faithful wisdom of mothers for how to pray and follow Jesus better.

[Recorded Worship Beginning]

WELCOME -Pastor David

MEMORY VERSE -Pastor David

"Jesus said, 'Happy rather are those who hear God's word and put it into practice.'" -Luke 11:28

WORSHIP MUSIC SET -Prerecording

Let Your Kingdom Come

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

[Live Worship Beginning]

GATHERING SONG: *Build My Life* -Sanctify

WELCOME -Pastor David

MEMORY VERSE -Pastor David

"Jesus said, 'Happy rather are those who hear God's word and put it into practice.'" -Luke 11:28

WORSHIP MUSIC SET -Sanctify

Rejoice

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Surrounded (Fight My Battles)

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

[Both Recorded & Live Worship]

GENERATIONAL BRIDGE -Pastor Andrew

RECOGNITION OF WOMEN -Pastor Andrew

PRAYERS: “For Women and The Lord’s Prayer” -Pastor Cassi

MESSAGE: Luke 4 Rejected (Luke 10-12) 3: “Prayer in Practice”

PP#1: Rejected 3: “Prayer in Practice”

“Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of His disciples said, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.’” -Luke 11:1

“Rejected: Prayer in Practice.” Luke 11:1 “1 Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of His disciples said, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.’”

PP#2: *Image for mom/mothers praying for her children*

On this Mother’s Day, it just so happens that we come to Luke 11, where Jesus teaches about prayer. “Just so happens,” we who love God have found, really isn’t a thing, because we know that our Heavenly Mother—the Bible says that we can call our God that, too, you know—our Heavenly Mother kinda works things so that when we think things “just so happen,” we discover that Her heavenly hands have been busy! And so, it *just so happens* that in our reading through Luke, we hear Jesus teaching about prayer on Mother’s Day. You see, our mothers know about prayer. Perhaps it’s because we’re their kids, but our mothers have been praying for us since before we were born. And the good of our lives, in no small part, is due to the prayers of our mothers. Amen? They know the importance of prayer.

So our panel today is made up of three mothers. I’m going to ask them to come up here and help us understand how to live out the first half of Luke 11. So, panel, please come on up here. Let’s welcome them today!

[Panel members come up and sit on stools.]

PP#3: Marilee Leonard, Reese Werner and Sherry Robinson

Welcome, ladies! We are so grateful that you are willing to come and share some of your insights with us. Please, introduce yourself and tell us way your mother was a blessing. We’ll go alphabetically, so Marilee, you go first.

Marilee: Introduces self and shares BRIEFLY a blessing from her mother.

Reese: Introduces self and shares BRIEFLY a blessing from her mother.

Sherry: Introduces self and shares BRIEFLY a blessing from her mother.

Wonderful! We are seeking to follow Jesus together with Luke, and we need some guidance on Luke 11. You may not have all the answers, but please share from your own spiritual journeys you wrestle with these passages as you follow Jesus. That will really help us all. Thank you!

So, church, let's turn to Luke 11. Jesus and His disciples are traveling around Judea, the southern area of Israel around Jerusalem. Jesus is in His third year of ministry, and He is facing stiff opposition from the Jewish leaders. In chapter 11, Luke continues to record a series of teachings that Jesus gave over the next few months at various locations.

The first half of Luke 11 has two main sections. The first section is verse 1-13 where Jesus teaches about prayer, and it includes Luke's version of The Lord's Prayer. The second is verse 14-28 where Jesus responds to accusations that His powers are demonic.

PP#4: Luke 11:1-28 (CEB)

1 Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of His disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

2 Jesus told them, "When you pray, say:
'Father, uphold the holiness of your name. Bring in your kingdom. 3 Give us the bread we need for today. 4 Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who has wronged us. And don't lead us into temptation.'"

So, Let's read Luke 11, starting in verse 1 with prayer. "1 Jesus was praying in a certain place." Stop there for a minute. We've been tracking Jesus' prayer life. We see Him praying regularly. And this time, it leads to teaching on prayer.

So, pull out your list from a while back, and add Luke 11:1 to the list of Jesus Praying in Luke. Here He then teaches prayer!

Flip Chart List:

Jesus Praying in Luke:

3:21 Baptism

5:15 Withdrew

6:12 Discernment

9:18 Praying alone

9:28-29 Transfiguration

11:1 Teaching prayer]

Jesus' disciples see Him doing it, and they then ask Him to teach them. That's what we want to do, too! We want to mimic Jesus, even in prayer. So, we listen in!

"1 Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of His disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' 2 Jesus told them, 'When you pray, say: 'Father, uphold the holiness of your name. Bring in your kingdom. 3 Give us the bread we need for today. 4 Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who has wronged us. And don't lead us into temptation.'"

The Jews were taught form prayers, and they prayed memorized Psalms. But John the Baptist had taught his disciples to pray from the heart, extemporaneously. And Jesus' disciples see Jesus doing it, too. So, they ask Jesus how to pray personal and individual prayers. Jesus teaches them a model, an outline for how to pray. Yes, we memorize it and call in "The Lord's Prayer," and it is good to pray it, but remember, it is to serve as a model for how to pray our own personal prayers.

Matthew records Jesus giving six petitions, whereas Luke records only five, leaving out, “deliver us from evil.” And the early church added a conclusion to the prayer that we use to this day.

Okay, time to go to our panel members. Reese, I know I can make you go first!

Reese: I’ve never been one for scripted prayers. Yet in this prayer, Jesus teaches the disciples—and us—how, through 1. proper reverence, 2. order and 3. content. It shows our *position* in relation to God and demonstrates *the essentials* of prayer.

Excellent. Thank you. Sherry, what do you see?

Sherry: Jesus taught the disciples the importance of making their prayers personal. Referring to God as “father” was probably a whole new concept for them. The format that Jesus was going to teach them would also point out that we are ALL sinners and in need of forgiveness.

Marilee, tell us more about this forgiveness.

Marilee: Jesus implies that if I don’t forgive others, God will not forgive me. If I can’t forgive others, then that shows a problem in my relationship with God. During one of our weeks of Lenten practice, Pastor David talked about making ourselves right with others. I decided I needed to connect with a friend that I had wronged a year ago. So I contacted her and asked for her forgiveness.

Wow, way to practice your faith! Thank you.

PP#5: Luke 11:1-28

5 [Jesus] also said to them, “Imagine that one of you has a friend and you go to that friend in the middle of the night. Imagine saying, ‘Friend, loan me three loaves of bread 6 because a friend of mine on a journey has arrived and I have nothing to set before him.’ 7 Imagine further that he answers from within the house, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up to give you anything.’ 8 I assure you, even if he wouldn’t get up and help because of his friendship, he will get up and give his friend whatever he needs because of his friend’s brashness.

But then Jesus taught them an image for how *persistently* to pray. Let’s go to verse 5. “5 He also said to them, ‘Imagine that one of you has a friend and you go to that friend in the middle of the night. Imagine saying, ‘Friend, loan me three loaves of bread 6 because a friend of mine on a journey has arrived and I have nothing to set before him.’ 7 Imagine further that he answers from within the house, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up to give you anything.’ 8 I assure you, even if he wouldn’t get up and help because of his friendship, he will get up and give his friend whatever he needs because of his friend’s brashness.

PP#6: Luke 11:1-28

9 And I tell you: Ask and you will receive. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you. 10 Everyone who asks, receives. Whoever seeks, finds. To everyone who knocks, the door is opened.

11 “Which father among you would give a snake to your child if the child asked for a fish? 12 If a child asked for an egg, what father would give the child a scorpion? 13 If you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?”

“9 ‘And I tell you: Ask and you will receive. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you. 10 Everyone who asks, receives. Whoever seeks, finds. To everyone who knocks, the door is opened.

“11 ‘Which father among you would give a snake to your child if the child asked for a fish? 12 If a child asked for an egg, what father would give the child a scorpion? 13 If you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?’”

Okay, panel, how should we pray? Sherry?

Sherry: To me, this is all about NEVER giving up. My persistence praying for others may even change my heart and have me reconsider what I am actually praying for. Persistence in prayer will ultimately help us recognize God's work in our lives.

Prayer changes *us*, so true! Reese?

Reese: God is able to do abundantly above all we ask or imagine. Ask big because God is good! Be bold. “How much more” will God give the Holy Spirit. As we recently finished a grow group about getting to know the Holy Spirit better, I am seeing references to the Holy Spirit everywhere now! He is the best gift, and God is wanting to give Him! How much more does God want to share with us? I think I’d like to find out by asking, seeking and knocking persistently!

So, we are supposed to nag at God! But being persistent in prayer doesn’t mean we use that as a way to obsess and fret and continue to worry about our need. That’s an important distinction!

PP#7: Luke 11:1-28

14 Jesus was throwing out a demon that causes muteness. When the demon was gone, the man who couldn’t speak began to talk. The crowds were amazed. 15 But some of them said, “He throws out demons with the authority of Beelzebul, the ruler of demons.” 16 Others were testing Him, seeking a sign from heaven.

17 Because Jesus knew what they were thinking, He said to them, “Every kingdom involved in civil war becomes a wasteland, and a house torn apart by divisions will collapse. 18 If Satan is at war with himself, how will his kingdom endure? I ask this because you say that I throw out demons by the authority of Beelzebul.

Okay, now sometime later, Jesus was again casting out demons. This time some of them claim that since He is controlling demons, perhaps He is using demonic powers. Verse 14 “Jesus was throwing out a demon that causes muteness. When the demon was gone, the man who couldn’t speak began to talk. The crowds were amazed. 15 But some of them said, “He throws out demons with the authority of Beelzebul, the ruler of demons.” [By the way, Beelzebul was one of the chief pagan gods

of the Old Testament, and had come to be a name for Satan.] 16 Others were testing Him, seeking a sign from heaven. 17 Because Jesus knew what they were thinking, He said to them, ‘Every kingdom involved in civil war becomes a wasteland, and a house torn apart by divisions will collapse. 18 If Satan is at war with himself, how will his kingdom endure? I ask this because you say that I throw out demons by the authority of Beelzebul.

PP#8: Luke 11:1-28

19 If I throw out demons by the authority of Beelzebul, then by whose authority do your followers throw them out? Therefore, they will be your judges. 20 But if I throw out demons by the power of God, then God’s kingdom has already overtaken you. 21 When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his possessions are secure. 22 But as soon as a stronger one attacks and overpowers him, the stronger one takes away the armor he had trusted and divides the stolen goods.

“19 If I throw out demons by the authority of Beelzebul, then by whose authority do your followers throw them out? [Side note, some of the pharisees also claimed to throw out demons. But the people never claimed that pharisees were demonic!] Therefore, they will be your judges. 20 But if I throw out demons by the power of God, then God’s kingdom has already overtaken you. [It’s here!] 21 When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his possessions are secure. 22 But as soon as a stronger one attacks and overpowers him, the stronger one takes away the armor he had trusted and divides the stolen goods.”

Okay, panel, what do you do with this? Reese, I know you love this passage. What does it say to you?

Reese: Evil doesn’t release people from bondage, Jesus DOES. Evil is threatened by Jesus, and Satan is the king of lies. Jesus Himself is the Stronger Man. He’s our true hero!

Marilee, you struggled with this a bit. What did you do?

Marilee: This is confusing when I first read this. I ask, “What am I supposed to get out of here?” My Bible’s commentary suggested reading Isaiah 49 and Revelation 20. Both of those scriptures talk about the evil of Satan and how God will bind Him up for a thousand years. Jesus doesn’t make up this stuff, He gets it straight from God’s Word. It helps me so much to see how the Old Testament and New Testament are so connected, and how the scriptures are being fulfilled.

Sherry, what is your takeaway?

Sherry: My take away here is either you believe Jesus is the son of God and can do all things, or you don't. If your faith is not in God, then consider questioning “in what or who am I putting my faith?” What team do you want to be on? As a believer, I already KNOW the battle has been won ... why would I choose to be on the losing team?

Count me “in,” too!

PP#9: Luke 11:1-28

23 “Whoever isn’t with me is against me, and whoever doesn’t gather with me, scatters. 24 When an unclean spirit leaves a person, it wanders through dry places looking for a place to rest. But it doesn’t find any. Then it says, ‘I’ll go back to the house I left.’ 25 When it arrives, it finds the house cleaned up and decorated. 26 Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself. They go in and make their home there. That person is worse off at the end than at the beginning.”

Let’s keep reading, because Jesus keeps going! Verse 23, “Whoever isn’t with me is against me, and whoever doesn’t gather with me, scatters. 24 When an unclean spirit leaves a person, it wanders through dry places looking for a place to rest. But it doesn’t find any. Then it says, ‘I’ll go back to the house I left.’ 25 When it arrives, it finds the house cleaned up and decorated. 26 Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself. They go in and make their home there. That person is worse off at the end than at the beginning.”

Marilee, you go first.

Marilee: If demons are thrown out, we dare not leave our inner selves empty. We need to fill ourselves up with the Holy Spirit, and thankfully He can’t be pushed out! I can’t help but wonder, is there any middle ground? Can we be either for or against Jesus? I wonder...is there space there? Our world likes to think so. We think,” I’m a good person. I’m not actively against Jesus. I volunteer to help others, I give money to missions, I’m okay.” We don’t want to pick a side. We want to stay comfortable, stay safe, take the easy path. But Jesus says there’s only black and white. That takes conviction.

Yes it does! Reese?

Reese: Don’t mess with evil unless Jesus leads the way. Put on the full armor first! Put on the full armor of God. Fight evil correctly. When we put on the armor of God, we become God’s superheroes!

Armor up! Sherry:

Sherry: Jesus is about “gathering” together in community as Christians. Keeps us strong in our faith. Scattering reminds me of just hangin’ out, kinda going where the wind blows with no sense of togetherness or community. We need to stay close to Jesus and be a part of His work gathering people in for His kingdom.

Stay close to Jesus, and you’re in good shape!

PP#10: Luke 11:1-28

27 While Jesus was saying these things, a certain woman in the crowd spoke up: “Happy is the mother who gave birth to you and who nursed you.”

28 But He said, “Happy rather are those who hear God’s word and put it into practice.”

Okay, one more. And here we finally have a mother actually mentioned. Verse 27, “While Jesus was saying these things, a certain woman in the crowd spoke up: ‘Happy is the mother who gave birth to you and who nursed you.’ 28 But He said, ‘Happy rather are those who hear God’s word and put it into practice.’”

Telling someone that their mother was blessed was a nice complement in those days. Jesus, however, redirects the blessing to those who listen to God in their actions. Isn’t that right, mothers?

Sherry: It’s better to do than to say. It is our human nature to talk about things but not always to act. I KNOW that Jesus lives in me, and this brings me joy but I can be reluctant to share about Him. I think that’s where the holy spirit does his best work. Sometimes all that joy just leaks out! I was at my bank, transacting some business when I realized the teller I was dealing with was from Ukraine. The words “I’m praying for you” seemed to come out easily but then all of a sudden I just reached out and touched her hand and asked if I could pray with her right then and there: THAT WAS THE HOLY SPIRIT making an appearance. And it was such a joy, for that teller and for me. Sometimes you just cant control what God may be doing in your life, you just gotta go with it!!!

Yes! Awesome! Marilee?

Marilee: You gotta walk the walk not just talk the talk. Put your faith into practice! But also that may mean releasing concerns to other people, too. My mom was always talking about how to share her faith with my brother. Yet it wasn’t really having an impact with him. I suggested that perhaps she should pray for God to bring someone else in his life that he would listen to, rather than assuming it was up to her to do the witnessing. God may use someone else to bring him to Christ. I pray that, too, for my loved ones. I pray for the Holy Spirit to put someone in their path that will speak of Christ’s Gospel.

Wow, good wisdom!

PP#11: Wisdom from Christian Mothers

Such good stuff, panel! You have really helped us absorb this passage into our lives as disciples. So now, as we wrap up, send us out with some motherly wisdom of how we can follow Jesus as better disciples. Reese, go first.

Reese: We all suffer from the hypocrisy of not doing God’s word. Happiness comes not from doing what we THINK will make us happy or from what we want to do, but from putting God’s word in practice. Jesus was a man His mother was proud of. But that is not why He came. He had a greater plan for the whole world. I think about my son and how proud we are of him, but to me it’s more important that he makes God proud than how I feel. God may have a different plan than I have for my boy!

Indeed! Sherry?

Sherry: Sometimes the things I read in the Bible are confusing, and that's okay. It prompts me to dig around for deeper understanding and clarity. It may not happen right now, but staying in community with other Christians certainly has been helpful for me.

Stay in God's family! Good advice. And Marilee?

Marilee: Praying to God helps release the power of the Holy Spirit within us, and then we are able to receive God's gifts. He wants us to be with Him. He wants us to gather others to be with Him, also.

Yes, our work is stay close to Jesus, and then help others gather to Him, too.

That is a great note to end on! Thank you so much, panel. Keep being spiritual guides for us. We want to follow Jesus with you! And to each of you, happy Mother's Day!

[Panel returns to their seats.]

[Live Worship Only] CLOSING SONG: *Let Your Kingdom Come* -Sanctify

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS -Pastor David

Wednesday: Dinner by staff

Next Sunday: Panel is Andrea Hendrickson, Colleen Kargel and Teresa Gruber.

Read ahead: Luke 11:29-53

MEMORY VERSE -Pastor David

“Jesus said, ‘Happy rather are those who hear God’s word and put it into practice.’” -Luke 11:28

BENEDICTION -Pastor David

POSTLUDE -Sanctify (live)