

“The Best Dad” – Pr Jim Sprengle – Pentecost 7 – July 27, 2025

- I. **Luke 11:13** – “If you then, 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!”
- II. **It may be short, but the Lord’s Prayer is full of meaning.**
 - a. It’s strange, but most people don’t think of the Lord’s Prayer as being made up of mostly petitions.
 - i. Petitions are simply requests or praying to ask God for help.
 - ii. The version in Luke is a little shorter than the version in Matthew that we say each Sunday... but we are still praying that God’s name be holy, that His kingdom come to the lost, that all our needs would be met daily, that we would forgive others as God forgives us, and that we are led away from temptations.
 - iii. These requests, or going to God with our prayers to seek His help, is the perfect posture for all Christians – in other words, God wants us to go to Him for everything.
 - b. Michele and I used to talk about whether God wants to hear about all our needs, even things that seem insignificant.
 - i. I always said that I should just pray to know what God’s will is for me, along with the power to carry it out.
 1. I would never pray to God and ask for things, as I felt like it was up to Him to decide what I needed.
 - ii. On the other hand, Michele would always say that we should go to God with every need – even things that don’t seem too important.
 1. For example, if you lose your keys or something else, seek God’s help in the matter and bring it to Him in prayer.
 2. If you have a pain or injury, pray for the Lord’s healing.
 3. If you are lost and can’t figure out where to go, pray for help!
 - iii. After a while of rejecting Michele’s way of going to God for everything, I realized that constantly praying is actually a way of honoring the Lord.
 1. When we seek out the Lord’s help with all our needs, no matter how small, we are keeping Him front and center in our lives.
 2. In fact, when we refuse to seek His help and support, or when we don’t pray very much, we are letting Him know that we don’t need Him.
 - c. Many of us have experienced when our grown children come to us for help with something... whether it’s support and advice, help with a project, or any other need... but it feels good to be included.
 - i. It’s a sign that your child respects you and cares what you think.
 - ii. God wants you to come to Him for your needs as well.

- d. Unfortunately, many of us grew up with the mindset that we are independent, and we don't want to bother others with problems or our needs.
 - i. It's strange that we look at God as someone we don't want to bother...
 - e. Other times, we didn't have a great father figure in our lives, and it makes it hard to think of God as a good Father – when we aren't even sure what a good father is like.
 - f. Maybe you've heard of the YouTube channel called, "Dad, how do I?"
 - i. It started with a guy named Rob Kenney, who wanted to offer practical advice on how to fix things around the house, but also emotional support through encouraging words.
 - 1. He figured he would get 30-40 people to watch maybe, but he became a huge hit with people, surpassing 3.4 million subscribers.
 - ii. When "Good Morning America" referred to the 57-year-old as the "Internet's Dad," followers flooded him with stories about their parents, broken relationships, and traumatic experiences.
 - 1. Kenney said, "It breaks my heart that so many people need my channel."
 - iii. He had his own difficult childhood because his mom abandoned him, and his dad left him with his brother when he turned 14.
 - 1. He was angry... confused... and sad as he went through his teenage years with little help or guidance.
 - 2. He vowed that he would never let his experience be passed on to his own children... and because he met many people who had tough situations like his growing up, he also vowed to help others.
 - iv. By the time he got to his 50's, he had raised his kids to adulthood, and now he was in search of how help others.
 - 1. He took the risk of starting a YouTube channel, and so many people needed a dad in their lives, that he became a type of father to many of his followers.
 - 2. He has a strong faith life and talks about reading his Bible to stay on track... and the "Internet Dad" looks to God the Father for his own guidance and wisdom.¹
 - v. Many of us don't know what a good dad is like, and we can't seem to figure out how to go to God – the Best Dad – for our needs and care.
- III. **Jesus was blessed with an earthly father**, along with the Father in heaven.
- a. Although the Bible doesn't spend much time talking about Joseph, he was an honorable, caring man from what we can gather.
 - b. Yet, the one thing we read over and over again in the Gospels is Jesus going to His heavenly Father in prayer.

- c. As He finishes His prayers in the reading today, Jesus' disciples approach Him and ask Him to teach them how to pray.
 - i. So, Jesus walks them through the Lord's Prayer – a simple way to honor God by seeking His blessings in our lives.
 - ii. First, we recognize the Father... the Best Dad ever... and that all people would respect and honor His name... in fact, that by our actions as His children that He would have a good reputation among those around us.
 - iii. Then, step by step, we ask for God to bless us... and all people with His love and care.
- d. Jesus then uses earthly examples of people in need... and it might seem like a strange argument, but what He's helping us to understand is that we go to people in the world for help all the time... if they can come through with help as sinful people... then how much more do you think we can get from God our Father?
 - i. Even bad fathers will not give their child a snake or scorpion when they need a fish or an egg.
 - ii. We can always go to God our Father with every care and need, and He is there for us in every way.

- IV. **Our Father, the Best Dad**, gave us His own Son to meet our greatest need.
- a. It might not seem like a loving thing to do – give the Son over to be killed at the hands of evil men – but for any of us parents, we can only imagine how horrible it must have been to see your own Child suffer in that way.
 - b. The truth is, the Father wanted us to be forgiven so much that He allowed His Son go the way of torture and the cross as a payment for the sins that destroy our relationships.
 - i. Sin destroys the relationships that parents have with their children, dividing and causing all kinds of trouble from both sides.
 - ii. Sin causes a divide between God and us as well... and we would have no way of spanning that divide without the sacrifice of Jesus.
 - iii. Without the Father sending Jesus, we would be lost with no hope.
 - c. Yes, the Father loved us so much that He would give us His only Son, so that whoever believes in Him would not perish, but have eternal life.

- V. **Imagine the perfect Father.**
- a. None of us had a perfect earthly father but imagine the perfect father.
 - b. We would never hesitate to go to him for any need... advice on an upcoming decision... help me find my keys... tell me how to support my own children or grandchildren...
 - c. Now, imagine your perfect Father in heaven.
 - i. Not only does He have the wisdom... but He has the power and authority to do anything.
 - ii. He makes it very clear in our reading today, ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, and knock and the door will be opened.

d. You've got the Best Dad—so don't be shy... ask, seek, knock, and watch Him show up.

¹ Source: Josh Paunil, "Amid the pandemic, people crave connection. The 'Internet's Dad' provides it," *The Washington Post* (6-17-21)