

March 10, 2010

Scripture Reading: Luke 11:1-13

"Lord, teach us to pray."

With these words, Jesus' disciples acknowledge that Jesus is the Master and they are the students. They have observed Jesus' prayer-life and want to experience the same power for ministry and the same intimacy with God. What Jesus teaches them is part of what we call The Lord's Prayer.

You may also want to read Matthew 6:9-13. The Lord's Prayer as we know it is taken from these two passages. Not only does The Lord's Prayer offer a prayer to pray, but when Jesus teaches us to pray, he teaches us what's important to God ... and to him. Jesus instructs his disciples to pray for (and anticipate) the honoring of God's name; the coming of God's Kingdom; the fulfillment of God's will; God's providence of human need; forgiveness of sin; protection from trial and from the evil one.

If God will answer any prayer, it is this one. Do you live as if you expect God to answer this prayer?

Notice that in both Luke and Matthew, we are taught that forgiving others is expected of us who pray for God's forgiveness.

Maybe the most important part of Jesus' teaching is that God is a heavenly Father -- a parent who loves His children even more than human parents love their children. And God longs to give us what we most need: the Holy Spirit.

Today, pray (not just recite) The Lord's Prayer. Pray it slowly and intentionally. Consider every word. Then live as though you expect God to answer it.