

## Ask...Seek...Knock

Seventieth Week of Ordinary Time- July 24, 2016 -- Luke: 11:1-13

This week's gospel comes with a full set of operating instructions. It is a step by step direction, from Jesus, on how we are to pray. In addition to the instruction on how to pray, Jesus informs us that God is a generous God who wants what is best for us. Our role is to ask, seek and knock in a persistent and faithful way, so that we might be generous and giving in our own lives, seeking an eternal relationship in heaven.

As we look at the opening line this week, Jesus is giving us an example of prayer. Jesus himself, sets aside time to spend with God. This is an essential ingredient in our own personal prayer life. We must set aside time each day, away from the hustle and bustle of life to connect with our Divine source of strength and grace.

**“Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples.”** So Jesus does just that. **“He said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name...”**

Here Jesus is teaching that God is a personal, loving God. God can be addressed as Papa, a parent who would do anything for the child. It is through this loving relationship that we exist. The Lord's Prayer is known as the seven petitions where we ask and acknowledge our dependence on God.

This is the prayer of stewardship where our needs meet the Divine truth. If we truly ask God for what we need, God will give us what we seek. We are then called to give as God gives. We are called to be generous with the gifts (food, money, possessions and forgiveness) we have been granted so that we do what is right in the name of Jesus Christ.

None of what we have on earth is truly ours. It all belongs to God. As God provides for us we must provide for others. **“What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?”** The gifts that come to us come through the power of God's spirit which animates and illuminates the world.

So how might we reflect in prayer this week? Consider the following: How often do I knock on God's door in prayer? Have I asked God for the things I need more than the things I want? What is it I seek in life? Money? Fame? Love? Am I truly asking, seeking and knocking at the door of the Divine to find holiness in this life and eternal life with God? What is the one thing I wish to say to God this day? Jesus taught us how: **“Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come...”**

Blessings!

  
Sue Schettler