

Ask the Father
November 5, 2006
Luke 11:1-13
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Synopsis:

Last week we looked at the **context** and the **content** for the Lord's Prayer.

Pray to a Father in heaven

Three petitions regarding God's needs with us in mind

Three petitions regarding our needs with God in mind

This week we presume the prayer and ask about the **person** to whom we pray. This is Jesus' concern in Luke's version of the Lord's Prayer. We pray to **God our Father**, who is

Better than a friend

Better than a parent

I.

Who is the Father?

Luke 11:2 "Father, hallowed be your name"

When you shut your eyes, whom do you see?

Jesus called God "Father" "*abba/pater*"

Very unusual in OT and in NT (God isn't male)

E.g. Baal = male; Ishtar/Asherah = female

Who is the Father? 5x in 10:22

Relationship/Adoption/Covenant

Provision/Protection

Deut 32:6; Psalm 2; Isa 63:16

Close relationship without gendering God

(Meyer book *The Promise of the Father*)

Apostles' Creed

II.

The Father is a Friend

Luke 11:5 “Suppose one of you had a friend”

Jesus’ parable is perplexing, often misinterpreted:

- Friendship and village life
- Can you imagine?
- 11:8 is not *persistence* but *no-shame (an-aidos)*
- Answer to parable is a loud NO!

III.

The Father is Good

Luke 11:13 “If you then, who are evil, know how to give good”

Father and Mother:

- Another parable
- Even the worst of you give good things
- Trick or Treat last week (good stuff)
- Answer is again a loud NO!

*Father gives the Holy Spirit

- More than we ask
- Relationship to Jesus
- Father’s table: Where we experience God as Father
 - A better friend (not like your friends)
 - A better parent (not like your parents)