**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

**Watertown, WI**

**“How Much More?”**

Pastor Aaron Reseburg

July 27, 2025

*Luke 11:1-13*

In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Certain people are harder to talk to than others. The pretty girl four lockers down from you, your angry neighbor, the person who hurt your feelings, the strange person who rambles every time you talk to them, the person who just doesn’t seem to like you. Some people are just hard to talk to.

Prayer is a conversation; it is man speaking to God. What do you think? Is God an easy person to talk to? In our pious hearts, I think we would all like to say yes. But if we stop and think about it, I think that, deep down, we know that He isn’t.

The most obvious reason why God can be hard to talk to is that He doesn’t respond. We have all had one-way conversations and they are certainly not enjoyable. But God even more so; you pray to Him and share all your hurts and your woes, you call out to Him in the midst of pain and sorrow, and all you get back is silence.

We know that God knows and sees everything, including our sins. I have spoken to so many who are almost afraid of God. Their past sins have made them feel as if God will not or cannot answer their prayers, and so prayer becomes difficult, and it gets hard to talk to God. Sometimes people just aren’t sure which words to say in their prayers, or they aren’t sure what to pray for, so they simply don’t pray for anything.

Our Gospel reading for today doesn’t solve all of those problems, but it does set us off down the correct path. Jesus gives us the Lord’s Prayer; He gives us powerful words which we can use to talk to God. Most importantly, however, Jesus teaches us that we are God’s children. Jesus sets up the relationship for us.

When you are asking someone for something, your relationship to that person matters. I ask my children for things differently than I ask the teachers in our school. I ask a student here for something differently than I ask my wife. Relationships matter and Jesus makes it clear that when we pray, we are children asking their Father.

We have all been let down by fathers in one way or another, but what makes God such an amazing Father is He gives us only good things, not always things that make us happy. Any parent or teacher will tell you that sometimes the best thing for a child is not to give them exactly what they want and make them happy. God is not after our happiness; God is after what is best for us. He is after our eternal good.

He is the Father who knows exactly what we need when we need it. When we pray to our heavenly Father and ask Him for things, there are three answers: Yes, no, and not yet. In response to the Lord’s Prayer, however, there are only two answers: Yes, and not yet. That’s what is so amazing about the Lord’s Prayer; God Himself has given it to us, and God Himself would never deny us what is asked for.

Everything in the Lord’s Prayer is according to His will. No dirt bikes, no lottery tickets, no new car. It is all the meat and potatoes of the Christian life. No fluff, no human desires, just what we need to live in this life. That isn’t to say, of course, that you can’t ask God for whatever is on your mind at any time. Just understand that, often times, we want things that would do us more harm than good.

Part of the Christian life of prayer is training our hearts and minds to desire the things that the Lord’s Prayer offers. We want the car and the new house, but what we need is to forgive our neighbor. We want a new job and to fall in love, but what we need is our daily bread. We want successful children, but what we need is deliverance from temptation. The Lord’s Prayer trains our hearts and minds to be focused on the things of God.

The more you talk to someone the easier it gets. I can go without seeing my high school friends for a year and then see them for two hours and it was like we were never apart. If you aren’t sure how to pray, if talking to God is difficult for you, start with the Lord’s Prayer.

Some people reject any sort of formal or written prayer and believe you need to pray from the heart every time. Yet, the prayers of the saints who have gone before us shape our conversations with the Father. The Psalms are prayers by saints made to God. Many of our collects are hundreds to even a thousand years old. They have shaped the prayer of the saints for centuries.

If prayer is difficult for you, pray the Lord’s Prayer when you wake up and before you go to sleep, then start praying a Psalm a day. Before lunch, sit down, bow your head, fold your hands, and read a Psalm. You do those things, and I promise you that talking to God will get easier.

Prayer is gift of God that God Himself taught us to do. Not only that, but He promises to hear us and to give us what we need. God promises to give us only the best. Pray the Lord’s Prayer and you will receive exactly what it asks for. You will receive God’s kingdom, your daily bread, forgiveness of sins, strength to forgive others, and deliverance from all the evils and temptations of this world.

In the name of Jesus, Amen.