

## Expose 50 K14

### Relational Capital In Prayer- Is This Your Friend?

Good day viewers. This is Expose 247 we are so sorry for starting late today. We just have some few things. So we thank God that we are able to start. So we are on Expose 247 where we dig into God's word to get what we need for life and eternity. And you know what we get depends on hungry... it depends on our hunger and our capacity. So what we get out of today depends on how hungry you are. I want to ask you are you really hungry? So can you stand to hear the truth? It depends on your capacity for truth.

We've been on the Knock Out Series and we've been looking at the subject of prayer last weekend. And we want to say we are in good company with our Lord Jesus Christ who when he started in Matthew Chapter 6 he started to knock out some principles, hypocrisy, the principle of hypocrisy.

And so we are continuing in the same spirit and in the same tradition today to knock out and bring every challenging things, to challenge everything that is all around prayer, things about prayer, things we do on prayer that is not in alignment with the Redemption realities. So we are trusting the Lord to use the scriptures to knock out all those principles today.

Will you like to say a word or two to bring our people up to speed about what we study last weekend on prayer.

Thank you. Viewers thank you for joining us today on this Knock Out series. And if you are wondering if you are just joining us today for the first time and if you've been with us, the focus we have on this knock out series is to knock out all those false ideologies in the body of Christ that actually deprive us of the benefits of redemption. And our working baseline scriptures is Colossians Chapter 2 verse 8 that says **beware, be aware lest no man spoil you of vain philosophies and human traditions that actually take you out of the benefits that Christ paid for on the cross.**

You see there are practices and there are things we do in the body of Christ that actually essentially make the Word of God of no effect. Jesus told the Pharisees he said because of your traditions you actually make God's word useless. It means as potent and as powerful as the Word of God is, John Chapter 6 verse 3, Jesus said the flesh doesn't profit anything, the Words I speak to they are spirit and they are life.

Now as much as the Word of God is spirit and life, Jesus told the Pharisees that by your traditions you made the word useless, you made it ineffective in your life. So what we are simply saying is there are things we do that make the God's word ineffective.

And we've been going through different aspects of the things that are quite common practice in the body of Christ. At the moment we are on the notion of prayer. We've been talking about knocking out those false ideologies when it comes to the whole point of prayer.

And you see prayer is one of the most, should I say one of the most important part of what we do in the body of Christ. I will call prayer a hot spot. That is what prayer is. That is why we've chosen prayer as the one we are dealing with at the moment. We've gone through some titles for example the first thing we talked about was hypocrite loves to pray using Matthew Chapter 6 as our working chapter. And we also went to Luke Chapter 11, and from there we moved on to the next one where we talked to about do you have such a friend or can this be your friend? And you see that is what we gone up to in this Knock Out series on prayer.

And you see today we are going to make progress on that and see how Lord will help us to begin to delve into how we actually knock out all those false ideologies when it comes to prayer in the body of Christ. And you see like we said our vision is to make sure that we kick these things out so that they don't actually take us out of our benefits in Christ Jesus.

Now today we are going to continue from where we stopped. You know Luke 11 has been the last Chapter where we stopped and we will make progress with that today. But I need to say this before we delve further into Luke Chapter 11 and see what the Lord has say today regarding the whole point of prayer.

I need to make a very important point, you see Matthew Chapter 6 which is what we actually read before we make progress to Luke 11 clearly told us that hypocrites love to pray. And Jesus did say one thing, he said the reason why he called them hypocrites is because these people think... he said don't be like be the pagan who make vain repetition for they think they will be heard because of their many words. And you see the reason why they are called hypocrites, I think if you are there, if you have your scripture, we need to look at that again, because that is the springboard for what we have to do today.

Now Matthew Chapter 6 again, you see we need to actually look at what the Word of the Lord has to say there. In Matthew Chapter 6 if you look at the verse 5.

If you look at that,

He says

**“And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward.”**

Now even Jesus mentioned the word hypocrites here. It's not in the same general context in which we used to talk about hypocrisy, because we have to allow Jesus to clarify what he meant by hypocrites.

I mean see what he said Matthew 6:5

**“And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward.”**

Look at verse 6, he says

**“But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.”**

Now verse 7, he says

**“But when ye pray, use not vain repetition, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.**

Now you see when you read that what you would have thought, like I said this is the springboard for today, what you would have thought was Jesus was saying don't say the same thing you said before in the place of prayer.

But you see that will be taking Jesus out of context, now because of course we've seen even when the Apostle Paul in the New Covenant. If you look at 2Corinthians 12, in the New Covenant we see where Paul said he went to the Lord and he said he prayed the same thing three times, when Paul was given giving a thorn in the flesh. I know some people think the thorn in the flesh is a sickness or disease.

Well, we are not here to talk about that notion. But the fact is Paul said because of the abundance of revelation, a thorn in the flesh was given to him. So it means before you qualify for that kind of thorn that Paul had, you need to have a volume of revelation. You don't qualify... is not a thorn anybody can pick on the street. Paul said it was because he had abundance of revelation. And if you look at Chapter 11, he actually

clarified what those thorns are. But that is not what we are talking about today. But the fact is the Apostle Paul did go to the Lord, he said three times he sought the Lord.

So we couldn't say Paul was doing vain repetition, so three times he sought the Lord, and the Lord told Paul that my grace is sufficient for you. So it doesn't mean that the scriptures are against you saying the same thing in the place of prayer. Because of course, Paul did it three times.

Again look at the Lord Jesus Christ himself, when he was praying the prayer of consecration. When Jesus Christ the Lord of glory was very close to the point of going to the cross and die for your sins and my sins. The Bible says concerning Jesus, he went to the Lord and he prayed it three times, where he was saying if it be your will let this cup pass over me. So we see Jesus saying the same thing three times in the place of consecration prayer.

Now the same Jesus said in Matthew 6 don't do vain repetition. And it will mean that if Jesus practice repeating the same prayer three times. If Apostle Paul went to the Lord three times saying the same thing to the Lord because of the thorn in the flesh. It means the Lord himself is not against we saying the same thing in the place of prayer. So what does Jesus Christ mean by saying vain repetition in Matthew 6?

Now let's see the scripture clarify the scriptures. What makes repetition vain? Now see what he says again, he said verse 7

**“But when ye pray, use not vain repetition, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.**

So we see why it is vain. It is vain because they think the basis why the Father should heard them is because of the very fact that we have repeated it in God's ear and that is why God need to hear. That is the basis. What makes the repetition vain is the basis of why does God has to listen to what you have to say? Does God has to listen to you because you said it many times? or

Look at verse 8, he said

**“Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him”**

Now the big question for you and I is when you go to God in the place of prayer, why should God listen to you? On what basis should he listen? Some people think the reason why God should listen is simply because am hammering it into his ears that is why he has to listen. Jesus said don't do that. Don't have that kind of thinking. The basis why God needs to listen to you is what makes the repetition vain or not.

If you look at verse 8, he said your heavenly Father knows the things you have need of.

He said the reason why he would listen is because you have a relationship with the Father. He will not listen just because you are repeating it. So what makes repetition vain is the foundation of what gives you the confidence to why God should listen to what you are saying.

Again we repeat that, what makes the repetition vain is do you have any basis for why God should listen to you? For some people they think well you know what, I think if I go to the mountain and I put my two knees on the floor. And if my knees can go right into the mountain top, it means God can never deny what I have to say. Now that is the basis why those people think God needs to listen to them. For some, they think, well if I go to that meeting or to that place, I mean if that man of God who is anointed, if he raises the prayer point and I connect to that prayer point. Then God has to listen to what I have to say. Jesus was simply saying what is the reason why your prayer must be answered?

So people think that the reason why God needs to hear them is because they have repeated that prayer, and if they repeat that prayer God has no choice but to bulge. Now Jesus said, if you have that kind of mentality and you don't have the mentality of the fact that you are talking to your Father, that is the mentality that makes your repetition vain.

Now let's repeat that and let's clarify that. If you have any other foundation, if there is any other reasons why you think God must answer your prayer apart from the fact that you are talking to your Father, Jesus said whatever you are saying is just vain. And that is the whole point of vain repetition. Every other reasons that makes you think God needs to listen you.

Now it doesn't matter what that reason is, it doesn't matter what you come up with. In fact some people talk about the fact that there are times of the night when you pray at that point in time, your prayer go straight to heaven. Now for those people, the confidence they have why God needs to listen is because they've got the time of the night right. Some says is 3am in the middle of the night, or 6am is the point when your prayers go straight to God. And when those people pray, they are so sure that there prayer must be answered because they prayed that 3am.

Now Jesus is saying, don't be like them. Don't be like those people who have other foundations or who have other confidences, who have other reasons why they believe God needs to listen to them. If we have any other reason apart from the fact that we

are talking to our Father who listen to us, Jesus said whatever you do is just vain. And that is the whole point of what Matthew Chapter 6 is actually telling us. And you see so when we talk about vain repetitions please don't take it out of context.

And so let's see what Luke 11 has to say to us beyond where we stopped last Sunday.

Ok. I want to say thanks for bringing out that word. And then that is bringing it with confrontation with all those practices, practices of shout. The more you shout the more he can hear, the more you can stamp your feet and all these acrobatics display that does not rest on the knowledge that the Father already knows what you need even before you asked. So every practices no matter how, we may not be able to cover everything, because we might not have seen all of them, but you can always subject them and put them under this practice.

Anything that makes you to feel the more you do it, the more the ears of the Lord will be open to hear you. Or anything that can make God to see the urgency of your case is really anti-biblical as you can see. You just have to know that our Father has heard us. He knows before we actually ask. So is not about the shouting, or the number of times you do it, or where you go, or the timing of the night that you'll get it right and you speak at that time. And somebody asked you why did you think God will answer your prayer? And you say well God will answer my prayer because I got it right, I spoke and pray at 3am. And somebody said that 3am your prayer goes straight to God.

Now every other reasons that you believe God must use as the basis to answer your prayer apart from the fact that you are speaking to your Father, Jesus called that vain repetition.

We have sharp practices where people go to a particular spot, they consider it holy ground, and people have come up with testimony because of what happen and this. And so people have (there) is a form of idolatry going in those places, even in water body and everything. People have attached that to the answering of their prayer.

So all these things, we are bringing the Bible(scriptures) to challenge those practices. And we can see in Matthew Chapter 6 not because we are saying that, but we see that that is what the heathen do. That is what they do.

They attach reasons, they attach it to... you see anything else that you attach your answered prayer to apart from the fact that you are speaking to your Father is vain. It's vain. It wouldn't achieve is very purpose. And that is what Jesus...

And you see these things is quite very tempting. Because is kind of natural. Is the way our makeup as humans, there are most times where we actually feel we ought to have

this sense of feeling that well this is different. This is special, this is particular special meeting, this is a special person, anointed person leading the prayer. This is a special person speaking over my life. You see that thing we try to think this is the reason why God cannot deny me this time around. This is the reason why God cannot refuse what I have to say. And Jesus said when we engage in that is completely vain.

And Luke 11 is where we actually stopped. So we are going to carry on from there.

Now quickly if you are there last time, we have a look at can this be your friend? And again Jesus established the reason why our prayers will be answered on the covenant relationship that we have with the Father. The Father cannot deny us because he is our Father. It is in his nature.

And you see have you noticed that the very question somebody asked Jesus was teach us to pray. Can you see that? And I thought when they asked Jesus teach us to pray, you would have expected Jesus to just teach them to pray. And when we combine Luke 11 with Matthew Chapter 6, we found out that Jesus did not just go ahead to teach them to pray, he told them how not to pray first before he told them how to pray. He knocked out all those false ideologies in prayer before he began to teach them to pray.

And you see we stopped on Luke 11 verse 8 last series. And today, we are going to continue Luke 11 from verse 9.

You see the big question you want to ask on this particular knock out series is if Jesus said in Matthew 6:7&8 that your heavenly Father knows what you have need of before you actually ask the Father, now the big question that remains unanswered which we are going to answer today is why then do we need to pray? Because some people have run off with that revelation, and you see there is always the tendency for us to run off with extreme revelations in the body of Christ. That is why Jesus Christ told us to walk in the narrow way because he said narrow is the way that leads to heaven. Narrow is the way that leads to salvation. This is the reason, because on both sides of the ditches, you don't want to go there.

Some people end up saying that Jesus said he knows, that our Father knows the things that we have need of before we asked. And some people says if that is the case, what is the point of praying? I could just rest on my bed, there is no point asking. If the Father knows, you see these are extreme. Extreme of those who believe that based on their vain repetition God will answered them. Some people think well there is no point asking.

Now as soon as Jesus said your heavenly Father knows the things you have need of before you asked him. And again as soon as he established in the parable of Luke 11:5-8 of the covenant relationship with your friend. The very next thing he said in verse 9 he said,

**And I say unto you ask.**

Ok, now he's saying even though I told you that your heavenly Father knows the things you have need of before you open your mouth and also now telling you to ask.

Now the question you want to ask is if my Father knows the things I have need of, before I ask him, then is asking me to ask, what is the reason for asking? **It will then mean that the reason why we ask in the place of prayer is not to make God aware of our situation. I repeat that it means the reason why we ask in the place of prayer is not to give information to God about the situation because Matthew 6:7 says your Father knows what ye need before you open your mouth.**

Then we have to figure out today by the Holy Spirit why then do we need to ask according to Luke 11:9. He said again I say unto you, **ask and it shall be given you.**

Now have you noticed there is no qualification there for on what basis it shall be given? He said, just ask and it shall be given. Because he already clarified the particular covenant relationship that you have with the Father.

Now listen if you have followed us in the previous episodes, we have actually said it before, the reason why God gives us anything is not based on our qualifications. We repeat that, it's in James Chapter 1, he said **if anybody lacks wisdom, let him ask from God who gives liberally.** Another translation says the God who gives without finding fault. Another translation says the God who gives without looking for reasons not to give you. Again we repeat that, Bible says God gives liberally without finding fault.

That is why Jesus Christ said, **ask and it shall be given you.** There is no but, there is no if, there is no when, there is no comma, there is no ok only on the condition that this...

He said ask and it shall be given you. And he said seek and you shall find, and he said knock and it shall be opened unto you.

Now look at verse 10, he says

**Luke11:10**

**“For every one that asketh receiveth;**



Now that is the word. Have you noticed that when you checked the scriptures in terms of prayer, there is always the asking and there is always the receiving.

Now I think this is a bit of confusion in the body of Christ, because we can't seem to make a distinction between both of them. The fact is, he said **ask and it shall be given you** that is what he said in verse 9. If you go on to verse 10 he said for every one that asks receive. It means receiving is your own responsibility when it comes to the place of prayer. And that is where the problem is.

Now look at the next verse, and he said

**“...and he that seeketh findeth; and he that knocketh it shall be opened.”**

**To him that knocks the door shall be opened.**

Now before we begin to look at this Luke 11 from verse 9 to verse 10. I want you to look quickly to verse 11 and see what it has to say.

**11. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a Father, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?**

Again now it seems to me that Jesus cannot seem to get over this issue. Jesus does not seem to get over this particular topic. And if Jesus is not getting over it, you and I should not get over it.

I repeat that, Jesus first talked about the issue of the covenant relationship by using a parable in Luke 11:5 to 8. And then Jesus put the issue of prayer from Luke 11:9-10. And again he has to sandwich that again and talked about relationship again from Luke 11 verse 11 to verse 13.

It sounds to me then that to the Lord Jesus Christ, the very foundation, the very whole notion, the very point of prayer has to be that people who are praying understand the basis, the reason, the foundation for why there prayer cannot be denied. And Jesus goes back again to Luke 11 from verse 11

He said

**“If your son can ask a bread of you that is a Father, he said, will you give him a stone, and he said or if he ask a fish, will for a fish give a serpent.”**

He said again verse 12.

**12. Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?**

And verse 13

**3. If ye then, being evil know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the holy spirit to them that ask him?**

Now that is the nature. He said even if you people that has evil nature. Can you see? Knows how to give good gifts to your children how much more your Father who's got a good nature. He is contrasting nature. He's simply saying the only reason why God will give you anything in the place of prayer is completely dependent on his nature.

Let's repeat that, he said if you being evil know how to give good gifts to your children how much more your heavenly Father. When he say how much more, he was actually talking about the heavenly nature as compare to the evil nature of men.

Now he's saying that, listen, don't present God to be below the goodness of men. And he said, the reason why the Father will give it to you has nothing to do with you. Can you see? He change the focus from us and put the focus on the Father and his nature.

He said the reason why the Father will give you is not because he's looking at you. He said is about his nature. That is why he said how much more will your heavenly Father. In what regard in comparison to our own evil nature.

Now may we say this clearly for those who are listening that the only reason why God gives in the place of prayer, you are not in the equation. You are not in the formula at all. If you were, Jesus would have sandwich in Luke 11 verse 11 to verse 13 he would have said well, which of you will have given to his son who qualifies, which of you would have given to his son who is well behaved. All he said was, if your son asked you of bread, will you give him a stone?

Can you see he didn't tell us anything about what the son did or what the son has in terms of qualification. It is irrelevant about all the reasons why you gave was because he was your son. That is the only reason why you gave. There was no reason why you gave him. It was just because he was your son.

Jesus emphasized relationship in terms of God giving you anything. And may we emphasized that in the place of prayer, the very first basis of prayer is that you and I must approach God in the places of prayer strongly and completely and only on the foundation of relationship. Please don't add anything. If you add anything to the reason why God should answer you, you are taking away from the strength of that relationship.

Jesus asked them a question, now is a very bad example because of course human Fathers cannot beat the nature of God's goodness. It cannot! But Jesus for the want of example, for the want of something to use in this natural realm to explain to them, he

had to use human Father-son relationship to explain even though it was inferior to the one that we have with the Father. It is very inferior. That is why Jesus said you being evil. He's saying that comparing your good nature to God's good nature, human nature looks like evil nature. No matter how good.

That is why the Bible says it talks about the fact he talked about the goodness of men, James Chapter 1 he said every good gifts and perfect gifts come from above from the Father of light. He said there is no shadow of turning or variableness. You know why he said so? Because when it comes to human relationship, there are shadow of turning, there are variableness. You see for example somebody can be so nice today, can be so good today and by tomorrow they can change their person. They can even react differently and you wonder is that not the same person that did this to me the other time. Why have they change their character? Now God is telling us in James Chapter 1 verse 16 and verse 17 he said the things about God is, he said