“Lord, Teach Us To Pray”
Luke 11:1-4

Introduction:
A. Jesus took for granted that his followers would pray.
   1. “When you pray...”, never “if you pray...” (cf. Matt. 6:5,6,7; Mk. 11:24; Lk. 11:2)
   2. It was an old, universal and often perverted practice.
      a. Among Jews. (cf. Gen. 20:17; Num. 21:7; Jas. 5:17)
      c. Both often perverted it. (Matt. 6:5,7)
B. Jesus taught that his followers should pray by precept and example -- and do it right.
   1. His personal example and teaching.
   2. Instructions from all Holy Scripture.
   3. Certain facts about praying that we need to know to do right.

Discussion:
II. Some Facts about the Contents of Prayer.
A. Learned from the model prayer. (Lk. 11:1-4; Matt. 6:9-13)
   1. Dignified address to the Father - “Our Father in heaven.”
   2. Praise for God - “Hallowed Be Your Name”; “Yours is kingdom...power... glory. (cf. “Thee & Thou”)”
   3. Plea for God’s will rather than ours - “Your will be done...”
   4. Plea for material needs - “Daily bread”
   5. Plea for spiritual needs - “Forgive”; “Do lead us into temptation.”
B. Learned from other Scriptures.
   1. To the Father, in the Son’s name. (John 16:23).
      a. Two apparent exceptions (Acts 7:59-60; 2 Cor. 12:8,9).
      b. Verse 59 is a problem; in other cases, “Lord” can mean the Father. (Heb. 6:17-18; Heb. 10:30-31).
   2. Contains several elements. (1 Tim. 2:1).
   3. Contents short or long. (Lk. 6:12; Matt. 26:39)
   4. Contents may repeat, but not vain repetition. (Matt. 26:44; 6:7)
   5. Pray for and about just about anything or anyone.(Phil. 4:6).
      a. For rulers. (1 Tim. 2:1).
      b. For enemies. (Matt. 5:43,44).
      c. For lost. (Rom. 10:1).
      d. For sick. (Jas. 5:14).
      e. For brethren. (Col. 4:2-4).
      f. For self. (Jas. 1:5)

III. Some Facts about the Attitude in Prayer.
A. With faith, confidence and without wrath. (1 Tim. 2:8; Jas. 1:6).
B. With forgiving heart. (Matt. 6:14,15).
C. With “pure heart and holy hands”. (Prov. 28:9; John 9:31; 1 Tim. 2:8).
D. To commune with God, not to impress men. (Matt. 6:5,7)

IV. Some Facts about the Times for Prayer.
A. Daily. (Matt. 6:11).
B. Always. (Luke 18:1)
C. Without ceasing. (1 Thess. 5:17)
D. Night and day. (2 Tim. 1:3)
E. At mealtime. (1 Tim. 4:3-5).
F. In time of stress and rejoicing. (Phil. 4:6,7; 1 Pet. 5:7; cf. Matt. 26:39; Acts 28:15)

V. Some Facts about the Setting for Prayer.
A. In a private setting. (Mark 1:35; cf. Matt. 6:6)
B. In a public setting.
   1. In the church assembly. (1 Cor. 14:15-17; Acts 12:5)
   2. At other places with others present. (Acts 16:25).

VI. Some Facts about the Results of Prayer.
A. Results depend on God’s will. (1 John 5:14).
B. Results depends on our conduct. (James 4:3; 1 Pet. 3:7).
C. Results can be providential without being miraculous. (Jas. 5:17-18).

Conclusion:
A. May we learn to pray in harmony with his will.
B. May we learn to depend on God enough to constantly feel the need to pray.
C. May we learn that prayer is basically a simple but dignified talk with God.