

## THE FRESH WATERS OF LUKE 11

Today we gonna soak ourselves in the fresh waters of Luke 11 ..

- ① Christianity is relational / first of all vertical, then horizontal / and after our re-birth we were not brought into an army .. or a structure .. or into a company .. or into an organisation / we were brought into a FAMILY / unfortunately many Christians believe that if they work more for the church, give more, fast and pray more, study the Bible more .. they will qualify for God's favour / now this is a deception / you are not going to earn God's favour by working harder / How can I say this? / because Jesus has already finished the work on your behalf / if Jesus has finished the work, how can you get more by 'working harder?' / none of us can outwork Jesus / JC is our redemption & Jesus is our sanctification because we have placed our faith in Him / after our re-birth we were brought into a FAMILY
- Now for the fresh waters of Luke 11 / in Luke 11, the disciples asked Jesus: Lord, please teach us to pray .. / I prefer Luke's version of this particular conversation between Jesus and His disciples, because Luke gives us a trilogy of stories – 1-2-3 stories in a row, which all deal in one way or the other with the question 'Lord, how are we supposed to pray?'
  - ② story nr 1: Lord, teach us to pray – our Father, which are in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name / Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done .. on earth as it is in heaven .. give us this day our daily bread .. and so on /
  - ③ story nr 2: a man came to his friend's house at midnight to ask him for bread because guests arrived at his house – and he had nothing to feed them with /
  - ④ story nr 3: Jesus says: 'you earthly fathers, if your son asks you for a bread – would you give him a stone? Or if he asks you for a fish, would you give him a snake? / or if he asks you for an egg, would you give him a scorpion? If you bad, broken earthly fathers know how to give good things to your sons, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to you when you ask Him? (by the way, why is bread, stone, snake and scorpion mentioned here?)
- now: prayer is a hot button topic in the grace community, because a lot of people wonder: 'well, if I am already in the finished work of Jesus, and I am already in the family of God, what is the need of praying? / or, at least they would ask 'how, how hard and how often do I need to pray?! / this question is asked against the background of the message of grace and the finished work of Christ / and I personally feel it is a good sign



when we ask this question, because then we start to realize how close we are to God / years ago, it was obvious how we were supposed to pray – that was when God was in our belief system a 1 000 km away and when He was constantly angry with us and the wrath of God was always hovering over us / then we all knew we were supposed to beg God to forgive us, beg Him for mercy, beg Him for provision and then hope for the best / the fact that we ask this question now indicates that we are making some progress in this family relationship thing

- **so .. 1<sup>st</sup> story** – our Father .. (we need to remember that in the OT nobody called God Father .. Jesus was the first to do it) not our seargent major, CEO etc (because after our re-birth we were not brought into an army, organisation or a structure) / **2<sup>nd</sup> story** – in this story at midnight a man came to his friend's house and ask him for food / his answer: no! get out of here .. it is already midnight, trouble me not, my children are with me in bed already .. I cannot get up to give you food now / BUT, in the end, the friend got up out of bed and gave bread to his friend standing outside his house / why? because he was his friend? No!! / because of the man at the door's **importunity – consistent persistence** / the man in need of food just kept on knocking at his friend's door in the middle of the night / in the end the man in the house got up and gave the man outside his house some food – not because he was his friend .. but because the man on the outside wont stop knocking!! / that is story nr 2 that Jesus told in answer to his disciples' question: 'Lord teach us how to pray'
- that leads us to story nr 3 .. and I want to show you what Jesus was up to in this conversation **ASK (ask, seek, knock)** – this phrase got so famous – it became an **acronym** and preachers all over the world tell people .. this is how we get or receive from God!! / now I don't want to spoil your acronym today .. but let's trust the HS to reveal to us what is really going on here in Luke 11! / this is the common understanding of this passage in scripture: you ask for it .. with consistent persistence / you seek for it .. or you knock the door down .. and then and only then you will get it! / so we have promoted the A-S-K method over the years and told believers this is how we get or receive from God
- then, suddenly .. with the 3<sup>rd</sup> story .. here comes the sudden switch .. & I say sudden switch .. because it appears as if Jesus was still talking about ask, seek & knock .. but the reality is that Jesus, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> story, is taking us back to story nr 2 / why was that? / because **in story nr 2 Jesus introduces us to 2 people that don't fit into the A-S-K method** / and who are they? / they are **the children that are in the house in bed with**



**their father!** / so what is story nr 3 about? / in the 3<sup>rd</sup> story Jesus says: you earthly fathers, if your son asks you for a bread – would you give him a stone? / or if he asks you for a fish would you give him a serpent? / or if he asks you for an egg would you give him a scorpion?

- Now look at the interwoven beauty (goue draad) in the 3 stories: story nr 1: how must we pray? Our Father ..talk to Him as if He is your Daddy (Abba) / story nr 2: Daddy is in the house laying in bed with His children / most of us miss the children that are in the house in bed with their Daddy .. / we are so fascinated by the guy standing on the outside knocking the door down that we miss the most important detail in the story – the children that are in the house in bed with their father / now off to story nr 3 quickly – its simply about a son who asks his father for good things and his father is quick to give it to him
- I don't want to hurt your A-S-K acronym, but I want to show you that if we have a proper look at the 3 stories in Luke 11, the A-S-K method is how anybody and everybody else get what they want / this is how I preached this over the years: according to the Bible, if you want something from God, you ask seriously and with consistent persistence / and if God doesn't move immediately, you ask again and again .. / and the reason for this is found in the second story .. it is because God is like the man in bed in the house and He is not going to supply in your need because He's your friend .. He's going to do it because you keep on knocking the door off / and we miss the children in the house in bed with their father in the 2<sup>nd</sup> story!
- Please .. realize today who you are in the 3 stories / I want to ask you a simple question: is God in the house and you are outside knocking? / or is God Daddy (Abba?) / now if God is Daddy, who and where are you in the story? / are you the guy standing outside knocking? / or are you the characters that get ignored every time we read this passage? / I present to you that you are the child laying in the bed next to the father! / the reason why I say this, is that when Jesus comes to the A-S-K part in verse 9-10, He says that everyone – say everyone?! – everyone that asks, receives & everyone that seeks, finds / now 'everyone' is not someone special or unique or set apart – it is just .. everyone – this is common practice / this is how the world operates – this is how it works in the natural / A-S-K – knock the door down with consistent persistence .. and the guy on the inside will give to you .. not because he's your friend .. but because he's not going to get any further sleep because of you knocking the door off!! / then Jesus goes into that weird part – if a son asks his Dad for a bread – he wont give him a stone / if he asks for a fish

– wont give him a snake / if he asks for an egg – wont give him a scorpion / why does Jesus do that? He wants us to realize that we are not just everyone!! / A-S-K is the way the world works .. and it is the way most people think this is how we receive from God / that is why many people ask on street corners etc and hope to receive / others think if they seek they will find and they go into the whole world looking for their fortune / others (in the church especially) think that if they knock the door of heaven down they will receive from God

- Jesus says none of these methods is how you have to do it / because you are in the house in bed next to Daddy / you are not just 'everyone' / you are the child in the Father's house / so you don't have to knock down the door from the outside / why do I bring this to you this morning? / because I think after all these years we still lack the feeling, realization, the revelation of sonship and daughterhood in the church today