

Text, Context and The Soul
The Divine Conspiracy #12

**Living In The Non-Condemning
Community Of Prayer**

LEAVING CONDEMNATION

- What Jesus is teaching in Matt. 7:1-6—specks and dogs and hogs.
- Condemnation doesn't help.
- And our “good stuff” won't help those who can't use it.
- “God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world.” (John 3:17)
- “Discernment” does not have to be “judgment.”

TRANSITION IN TO ASKING

- **The different model of human relations in the kingdom.**
- **The transition in Matt. 7:12, and what the “therefore” is there for.**
- **In approaching people for what we want them to do or be, we ask, and then ask God. “Leave it there.”**

WHAT IS PRAYER?

- It is talking with God about what we are doing together, talking and listening.
- It is staying in action with the kingdom.
- Our two causal roles: laborare and orare.
And indeed laborare est orare if done interactively with God.

JESUS' THREE GREAT TEACHINGS ON PRAYER.

- **Matt. 6:7-11: Prayer as a cosmic force which lays the foundation of for treating others as you wish to be treated.**
- **Luke 11:2-13: The role of shamelessness in asking.**
- **Luke 18:1-8: That one ought to keep on praying and not give up.**

PRAYER IS FUNDAMENTALLY ASKING

- **The “shamelessness” again. Little children know.**
- **Asking is desirable in families and friends.**
See Rom. 8:32, Phil. 4:6, Heb. 4:16
- **We ask always as a part of an overall walk with God, in which our business is His business and His business is ours. Hence, “in Jesus name.”**

IN ASKING--

- **I recognize and welcome God's presence with me and I make myself present to Him.**
- **That is asking: One of the powerful forces in the universe.**
- **Prayer very carefully makes room for our
Significance
Freedom**

WHY PRAYER?

God's intent to balance power with freedom is the explanation of this very strange arrangement at the heart of the universe. It is the why of prayer.

(See Paul Billheimer, Destined for the Throne.)

PRAYER AND GIVING

- **Prayer and giving (better, stewardship) are the baby steps into kingdom living and knowing the reality of the kingdom.**
- **They are the easy lessons in learning to act with God.**
- **The widow's two 'mites'. Luke 21:2-3**
- **Using 'mammon of unrighteousness'. Luke 16:9-13**

THE KINGDOM PRAYER

**Dear Father always near us,
May Your name be treasured and
loved, May Your rule be completed
in us---May Your will be done here
on earth in just the way it is done in
heaven. Give us today the things we
need for today,**

THE KINGDOM PRAYER

(CONTINUED)

And forgive our sins and impositions on You as we are forgiving all who in any way offend us. Please don't put us through trials, but deliver us from anything bad. Because You are the One in charge, and You have all the power, and the glory too is all Yours—forever—which is just the way we want it!

REMEMBER

- **Carry everything to God in prayer.**
- **Pray without ceasing: keep it flowing. Train your mind and body to do this.**
- **Frank Laubach's "Game of Minutes" and *Prayer: the Greatest Force on Earth*.**
- **No limit. Eph. 3:20-21, Mark 11:22-26, etc.**