



## August 28 - Sept 3, 2016

### Text: *Luke 11:9-13*

**SUMMARY OF "SERMON":** Most Christians at times struggle with the issue of unanswered prayer, even though we are told to ask, seek, and knock – with assumptions that our Father in heaven will respond. But looking closer at the text we uncover two interpretive tools to help us understand the Father's good purposes in calling us to pray and in how He chooses to answer.

**RELATED BIBLE PASSAGES FOR THE COMING WEEK** [The Bible readings this week illustrate the balance between boldness in prayer and trusting God's timing and response.]

*Monday, August 29* – **Acts 4:23-31** [This passage was the sermon text earlier this month but it serves well here as a wonderful example of Christians boldly asking for the empowerment needed to see God's kingdom advance, even in the face of resistance, and the powerful, and in this case, immediate response from the Father.]

*Tuesday, August 30* – **Judges 6:36-40** [God had called Gideon to a task too big for him and Gideon needed assurance that God would empower him to do what was asked. So Gideon boldly asked – twice – and God graciously answered.]

*Wednesday, August 31* – **Luke 18:1-8** [The point of this parable is obviously not to equate the character of the unjust judge with our just God. Rather, as Jesus states clearly in v.1, it is to encourage God's children to persevere in prayer, trusting God's wise answer in His time.]

*Thursday, Sept. 1* – **II Corinthians 12:7-10** [Paul boldly asked the Lord three times about removing a 'thorn' (persecution, physical ailment?). The Lord answered, but not in the specific way Paul had asked. Rather, Paul found something greater – a grace and empowerment working through him that magnified God's glory.]

*Friday, Sept. 2* – **Psalms 138** [The psalmist delights in and praises the Lord and then, v.3, rejoices in a direct answer to prayer in a time of apparent trial and challenge. This gives the psalmist boldness for a final prayer request, vv.7-8, that comes out of a current trial.]

*Saturday, Sept. 3* – **James 4:1-10** [James is addressing Christians and pinpoints, vv.2-3, one reason why our prayers may not be answered – if we are asking selfishly rather than seeking God's will and His purposes. Our posture before the Lord, including in prayer, is to be one of humility and submission.]



## August 28 - Sept 3, 2016

### Text: *Luke 11:9-13*

**SUMMARY OF "SERMON":** Most Christians at times struggle with the issue of unanswered prayer, even though we are told to ask, seek, and knock – with assumptions that our Father in heaven will respond. But looking closer at the text we uncover two interpretive tools to help us understand the Father's good purposes in calling us to pray and in how He chooses to answer.

**RELATED BIBLE PASSAGES FOR THE COMING WEEK** [The Bible readings this week illustrate the balance between boldness in prayer and trusting God's timing and response.]

*Monday, August 29* – **Acts 4:23-31** [This passage was the sermon text earlier this month but it serves well here as a wonderful example of Christians boldly asking for the empowerment needed to see God's kingdom advance, even in the face of resistance, and the powerful, and in this case, immediate response from the Father.]

*Tuesday, August 30* – **Judges 6:36-40** [God had called Gideon to a task too big for him and Gideon needed assurance that God would empower him to do what was asked. So Gideon boldly asked – twice – and God graciously answered.]

*Wednesday, August 31* – **Luke 18:1-8** [The point of this parable is obviously not to equate the character of the unjust judge with our just God. Rather, as Jesus states clearly in v.1, it is to encourage God's children to persevere in prayer, trusting God's wise answer in His time.]

*Thursday, Sept. 1* – **II Corinthians 12:7-10** [Paul boldly asked the Lord three times about removing a 'thorn' (persecution, physical ailment?). The Lord answered, but not in the specific way Paul had asked. Rather, Paul found something greater – a grace and empowerment working through him that magnified God's glory.]

*Friday, Sept. 2* – **Psalms 138** [The psalmist delights in and praises the Lord and then, v.3, rejoices in a direct answer to prayer in a time of apparent trial and challenge. This gives the psalmist boldness for a final prayer request, vv.7-8, that comes out of a current trial.]

*Saturday, Sept. 3* – **James 4:1-10** [James is addressing Christians and pinpoints, vv.2-3, one reason why our prayers may not be answered – if we are asking selfishly rather than seeking God's will and His purposes. Our posture before the Lord, including in prayer, is to be one of humility and submission.]