



Not Like That
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Scripture: *Luke 11:1; 18:13; 22:42; Matthew 6:5-10*

Idea: The purpose of prayer is to surrender our will, not to impose it.

Introduction

[One day while Jesus was praying, his inner circle of disciples were watching and listening, but not for the first time. On this occasion, one of them finally mustered the courage to ask what they'd been thinking and wanting to ask about for some time.]

Luke 11:1

*"Lord, **teach us** to pray."*

[After watching and listening to him pray, they concluded that maybe they'd been doing it wrong. They'd been praying the wrong way, even though they'd been praying their entire lives. They'd been brought up praying portions of the Psalms and combinations of Old Testament writings. They'd been taught to pray by their fathers, mothers, and religious leaders, so they were still praying the way they had been taught to pray as children by reciting memorized prayers. Then Jesus came along, and if he was praying correctly (if that's the way it was done), they had a lot to learn. For reasons we will never know, Jesus waited to be asked. Eventually, they asked:]

Luke 11:1

*"Lord, **teach us** to pray."*

[I would imagine this is something you've never asked anyone to teach you how to do. In fact, after hearing you pray, if someone suggested you should learn how to pray because you weren't doing it right, you would be offended. If they said, "Hey, uh, that prayer you prayed before dinner last night, that's not how you pray. Let me teach you how to pray."

[In about 10 minutes, Jesus is going to teach us something about how to pray that might offend you. But you won't be upset with Jesus. You'll be upset with me because I'll be the one telling you, that according to Jesus, you aren't praying correctly. So get ready. Jesus is about to school all of us on prayer.]