

Unmasking The Father | Dave Geldart | Luke 11:5-13 | August 21, 2022

1. Parables Wrapup
 - a. **Today we're going to have a number of places** where we'll slow down and consider some questions. Encourage you to have something to write with (or notes on phone) to get the most from these times.
 - b. Our goal is that this time together wouldn't just be a time to sit through a sermon and then bounce to the next thing, but that you'd be able to connect with it personally and also connect with God about it. Cool?
2. **Today Luke 11:5-13 CSB**
3. **Right before this Jesus's disciples** asked him to teach them how to pray. And he teaches them The Lord's Prayer
4. **Mat 6:7-8 ⁷When you pray, don't babble like the Gentiles, since they imagine they'll be heard for their many words. ⁸Don't be like them, because your Father knows the things you need before you ask him.**
 - a. Talk to God naturally as a loving father
 - b. **No memorized repetitive prayers please** – that would be so weird talking to your dad
 - i. No superstitious “religious magical” thinking that you've got to get God's attention with rote recited prayers disconnected from your heart
 - ii. Which, ironically and tragically, many people have come to use THE LORD'S PRAYER as! – totally opposite it's intention
 - c. **Instead, talk to him INTIMATELY. Freely.**
 - d. Like you're taking a walk around city park with a coffee in your hand and your dad at your side.
 - i. Or sitting by the fire pit on a cool night, visiting with your mom
 1. Or your close friends
 - e. **Pray is not about recitation, it's about relationship!**
 - i. **AND GOD WANTS RELATIONSHIP – WITH YOU!**
 - f. So the way we pray connects intimately with how we view God
5. **Let's jump into our parable: Luke 11: v5-8**
 - a. ⁵He also said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him at midnight and says to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I don't have anything to offer him.’”
 - b. ⁷Then he will answer from inside and say, ‘Don't bother me! The door is already locked, and my children and I have gone to bed. I can't get up to give you anything.’
 - i. **Hospitality** was an incredibly high value in their culture – way more important and honor issue than there
 1. Not many inns, hotels. Most travelers would lodge for the night in homes of strangers or extended family.
 2. It would be a BIG DEAL not to have some small “baked daily” bread loaves to offer them.
 3. No Walmart or Quickie Mart
 - ii. **Midnight is LATE** in a preindustrial agrarian society

1. No electric lights, folks mostly went to bed not long after sunset.
 - iii. Typical lower class 1st century middle eastern home
 1. **Basically 1 big room**
 2. Family would all sleep together on a mat/bed
 3. **They'd lock their doors** with a large heavy wooden or metal beam they'd fasten into place with some brackets above the door.
 - a. DID not open quickly Or soundlessly
 - b. And parents are always afraid of their young kids waking up!
 - c. *Fam vacation to YMCA Estes Park, all in one big room.*
 - i. *Ben and Sam on one bed, Jack in a pack n play.*
 - ii. *Every time a kid would make a sound or go to the bathroom, JACK WOULD WAKE UP and start crying.*
 - c. ⁸ I tell you, even though he won't get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his friend's shameless boldness [awkwardly blunt, determined], he will get up and give him as much as he needs.
 - d. **Confusing – is JC saying He's like the grouchy neighbor?**
 - i. That he's reluctant to help us?
 - ii. And that we need to keep pestering him to get help?
 - iii. At surface reading it can seem like that to us. But its quite the opposite.
 1. As we shall see
 - e. ⁹ "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give [the] Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"
 - f. Do you see Jesus already practicing some of that shameless boldness here?
 - i. **If you then, who are evil** [man he's not sweet talking us – don't you love how Jesus so casually calls us evil], know how to give your kids good things when they ask.... **HOW MUCH MORE** will your heavenly father give (here in context, not the person but) the POWER, PROVISION of the Holy Spirit in the real situations of your life.
 - ii. **God is NOT LIKE THE GROUCHY reluctant neighbor.**
 1. **HE'S SO SO MUCH BETTER** – so you can be confident he'll answer you RIGHT AWAY, with all the good and love you could imagine and more.
 2. **Not reluctantly...** But eagerly because he's your GOOD GOOD FATHER
6. **So we can pray openly and recklessly to him** --- SHAMELESS Brash impolite unmannered unfiltered bold, brazen, unfiltered prayer life.
- a. FROM a place of knowing God as your perfect father
 - b. **SAMMY does this so well** – this kid asks for everything all the time. Over and Over.
 - i. Unashamedly. Brashly.
 - ii. Dad can I have another cookie (no)
 1. Dad can I please have another cookie
 - iii. Dad when can I have a gold plated playstation?

1. Didn't even know this existed
 2. But yes it does- 24k gold plated PS5 -- \$12k
 - iv. But more often than not, we get to answer YES
 1. Yes you can get a snack
 2. Yes I can play legos with you
 3. Yes I can help you.
 - v. I love it. I love when he comes to me and asks for whatever. It means we're connecting. And I love it when I get to say yes
 - c. That's what God wants us to be like with him.
 - i. **IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE LIKE WITH HIM?**
- 7. But it's not usually that easy – because we have trouble seeing God as he truly is**
- a. **By default all of us bring in skewed ideas about God**
 - i. We see him as like the grouchy neighbor
 - ii. The unjust judge
 - iii. Or the permissive parent who just wants you to be happy and denies you nothing.
 - b. **We tend to put other ppl's faces on God** – particularly our fathers and father figures.
 - c. And our experiences with them shape our sense of both ourselves, what it takes to get love and value, and ultimately what God is like and how he sees us.
- 8. Every child comes into the world unconsciously asking AM I LOVED, and what do I need to do to be seen and enjoyed and loved**
- a. A child's worldview (and realization of their place in it) is shaped by the age of 5
 - b. **It's hard to overstate how powerful** and influential our families of origins are in forming our worldviews and personalities. Our identities. Our sense of security. Our styles of living.
 - i. And our views of God
 - ii. We unconsciously think, IF that's how my dad was, that's how God is
 - c. **So we need to understand** and work through these to unmask God so that we can connect intimately with him as his beloved children.
- 9. So before we look more into these,**
- 10. PAUSE: What did I need to do to be seen, loved, and enjoyed in my family of origin?**
- 11. We're going to take a look at four main types** of parenting/households dysfunctions (borrowed heavily from one of my seminary classes years ago called Geography of the Soul – I've found it so helpful):
- a. As we start:
 - b. **There's NO perfect home** – all of us had fallen imperfect parents. All of them trying (usually) to do their best with what they inherited.
 - i. So as we look at basic types of parenting and homelife dysfunctions, it's **not to blame our parents** necessarily.
 - c. But to understand what's behind the often unconscious driving forces in our lives that form our beliefs about ourselves and our parents
 - i. AND directly influence the way we default to seeing God.
 - ii. **So as we go pay attention to ones that seem to connect**

12. Parenting Styles Quadrants

- a. Continuums:

- b. Home Life feels managed and chaotic,
- c. Parents communicate (indirectly) You don't matter (so you should be Good), and I don't matter (so you should be happy)

13. Performance Style

- a. Parents indirectly convey to their kids: "You don't matter"
 - i. "You exist to make me look good"
 - ii. **SO YOU SHOULD BE GOOD**
 - iii. And home life will feel managed.
- b. Parents set the standard for what is accepted
 - i. And it will be enforced
- c. **High value on right and wrong. Good and bad.**
- d. You're valued when you're good.
 - i. When you perform
 - ii. When you achieve
 - iii. When you obey
 - iv. Grades, athletes
- e. **Mom and dad goal: look tidy**
 - i. High image based
- f. Neat at school and church
 - i. Sit quietly, smiling
- g. Neat pics on the mantle
 - i. Everyone smiling perfectly.
 - ii. **All wearing themed kstate shirts**
- h. I land here at least some? – pastor's kid?
 - i. I need to be an example... expectation
 - ii. Always smile. Be nice. Be put together in front of others.
- i. **These kids grow up: Bound**
 - i. Controlled by anger and dependence
 - ii. Low sense of self/self-worth self confidence (I don't matter)
 - iii. Hurts and disappointments swept under the rug (but never REALLY go away)
 - iv. **They are defensive and obsess over offenses** (bound by them)
 - v. **They can be perfectionist, and thus live in a perpetual sense of failure**
 - 1. I've got to SOMEHOW get it (do it) right, and when I don't, I feel bad about myself. And that's most of the time.
 - vi. **Such a high pressure for everyone to always look put together**
 - 1. SO.... Sometimes these kids smile when they're upset or angry or sad
 - 2. Lots of girls with significant eating disorders
- j. **THEY TEND TO THINK GOD IS**
 - i. **Angry at them**
 - ii. Uncaring
 - iii. Harsh
 - iv. Eager to punish
 - v. Only concerned with their performance. Obedience.

14. DISTANT style

- a. Kids still get the message from parents that you don't matter, and so should be good
 - i. But Home feels much more chaotic.
- b. **Parents pursuing their own careers, passions, own things**

- c. **Children are lost** and trying to find their way through
- d. Parents are too overwhelmed to deal with their kids problems, needs
 - i. Lots of fast food / pizzas for dinner
 - ii. Lots of screens to occupy kids
- e. Very little emotions shared
 - i. **Often emotional neglect** – emotionally distant parents
- f. Physical presence but heart withholding
- g. Secret Addiction rules
- h. Kids of Distant parents often grow up trying to be the Trophy**
 - i. **They live for recognition** (the kind they didn't regularly get from mom and dad)
 - ii. They allow their identity to be shaped by external labels
 - iii. Others exist to make them look good
 - iv. Relationships mainly exist to serve me
 - v. **They "name drop"** to inflate themselves by association (with big-named others)
 - vi. They can put lots of value and attention in their physical appearance.
 - 1. Body, clothes, style
 - 2. Social status. Likes on Instagram.
 - vii. **Like the Bound type, they also live dependent on others for their sense of self**
 - 1. But rather than being driven by anger, they're **driven by denial**
- i. THESE TEND TO VIEW GOD AS**
 - i. **Distant. Detached.**
 - ii. **Uninterested** in their personal lives
 - 1. Desires, dreams, feelings
 - iii. He's only there for emergencies. And then you'll have to get his attention
 - iv. And it will take attention getting, because God's not that interested.
 - 1. So you'll need to impress him with your goodness
 - 2. Your accomplishments
 - 3. Your ministry successes
 - v. **God's just not that into you**

15. Child-Centered Style --- Disney Style or the Soccer Mom

- a. Parents communicate that "I don't matter, You do"
- b. Focus all on the Children**
 - i. I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY
- c. And it's high managed – up to the parents to manage their child's happiness
 - i. **Kids usually get what they think they want**
 - ii. Child throws tantrums in store, parent gets them whatever they want to placate them
 - iii. Emphasis on FUN
 - 1. Kept on surface.
 - 2. Problems not dealt with
- d. Parents exist for the whims of their children
 - i. Homes try to fill children with things, rather than deep relationships
- e. Parents are usually exhausted.**
 - i. don't feel they have space for themselves

- ii. OFTEN kids who grow up in performance based homes turn around and parent as the Child-Centered Style Home
 - 1. Reaction to high rules based
- f. **These kids usually grow up feeling somewhat Haunted**
 - i. Controlled by anger and independence
 - ii. Children feel afraid because they feel too big
 - iii. **This child grows up profoundly insecure.** No boundaries are scary. Don't know where the fences are. So you're always out in the open.
 - iv. Kid feels pressure "I NEED TO BE HAPPY"
 - v. **But grow up with a sense that nothing really lives up to my expectations**
 - 1. When they grow up they struggle to deal with the world that doesn't exist to make you happy!
 - vi. **They're haunted because they feel hollow.** And know that their insides don't match the fun exterior.
 - 1. They're haunted by deep disappointment, pain, shame, and rage.
 - vii. **They think: "Don't get too close, or I'll scare you away"**
 - viii. Aloof and unapproachable
 - 1. Ebenezer Scrooge
 - ix. **Another variant is the Casper the Friendly Ghost style**
 - 1. Get too close and a joke is made
 - 2. Pops it back up to the surface
 - 3. "I don't matter and you don't matter"
 - 4. **ME Through late HS, College**
- g. **THESE THINK GOD IS**
 - i. **My personal genie**
 - ii. God exists to make me happy
 - iii. But eventually, since they experience the reality of their own deep dissatisfaction and pain, it's easy for them to also think **God is disappointed with them**
 - 1. They're supposed to be happy and they're not
 - a. And it's their fault
 - 2. There must be something wrong with them – or HIM
 - iv. **So God can't be trusted** to be there for me. To Accept me.
 - v. And if he really knew the real me, the stuff I've done, the things I think, he'd want nothing to do with me
 - 1. So we keep him at a distance

16. -Aholc Style (Addictive Home)

- a. The message here is I don't matter, You should be happy, and life is chaos
- b. Parent feels overwhelmed because they don't matter
 - i. Very small sense of self
 - ii. They lack self-care
 - iii. **And they live in their addictions.**
 - 1. Alcoholic, workaholic, rageaholic, sexaholic, etc
 - 2. Fam can swing from one extreme to the other in their addictions
- c. **Remorse** after the addictive behavior, then attempt to fix it → gifts, fun shopping
 - i. Kids swing from being neglected to being lavished.
 - ii. Confusing messages for kids.
- d. No boundaries or privacy

- e. **Children live to try to make the parents happy**
- f. **Kids have to grow up really quickly.**
 - i. Kids caught up in becoming the **enablers** (someone who takes consequences for other ppl's actions) / caregivers for addictive parents.
 - ii. Kids often grow up and move into addictive lifestyle (themselves or spouses)
- g. There's sometimes a conflation of love and need. I Need You = Love You Style (parent's addiction to being needed)
- h. **These kids often grow up thinking they need to be invisible**
 - i. **Compliant**
 - ii. **Nice yet vacant**
 - iii. Independent, but a **denial of their own needs**
 - iv. They won't give you a preference on ANYTHING
 - 1. Won't tell you where they want to go to lunch
 - v. Always taking care of others, but unable/unwilling to focus on themselves, care for themselves
 - 1. They can be FAITHFUL SERVANTS at church!
 - vi. Often giving to others, but You CANNOT give to them
 - vii. When you bring them a casserole after they get sick or have surgery
 - 1. They bring the dish back the next day with another casserole for you baked inside.
- i. **THESE SEE GOD AS**
 - i. **Unpredictable**
 - ii. **Unsafe**
 - iii. **Powerful, but he's not good.**
 - iv. He doesn't care about my needs or desire.
 - 1. I'm on my own. It's up to me.
 - v. He just cares about me taking care of others. I only exist to serve.
 - vi. There's very little intimacy, since there's so little foundation of trust.

17. **PAUSE: What Parenting Style quadrant did you grow up in?** Remember it's a spectrum and sometimes there's elements of multiples. But what most feels connecting?

18. **PAUSE: So, what kind of mask might you be naturally putting on God based on this?** What might you think he's like, and what he wants from you

19. Our upbringings and father figures certainly shape our view of reality. Our view of God. But they don't have to get the last word. **Our woundedness our brokenness doesn't have to have the last word.**

- a. **There is no story so tragic, no wound so severe, no sin so shameful, that you're beyond the reach of God's love.**
- b. **In fact, the truest thing about you isn't your brokenness, but your redemption in Christ. = THE GOSPEL!**
 - i. *John 1: ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was created through him, and yet **the world did not recognize him.** ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² **But to all** who did receive him, he gave them the right to be **children of God**, to those who **believe** in his name, ¹³ who were born, not of natural descent, or of the will of the flesh, or of the will of man, but of God.*

20. God is a **GOOD father who has both the desire and ability to change and heal you** from the inside out.

a. To make you whole and integrated.

21. So that the real you can relate to the real him -> directly -> as your Perfect loving Heavenly father

a. No more masks.

22. The Christian life could easily be described as the process of being reparented by our Heavenly Father

a. Happens through his Spirit, and most often through his body – the Church community

23. Are you willing to let Him come and lovingly reparent you?

a. To help you remove the mask you've put on him, and help you see him as he truly is: the perfect loving father we wish we could have had.

24. APPLICATION TODAY:

a. Pray to him. Take the risk of bringing the real you to the real him.

i. Practice **BOLD** reckless Unfiltered asking and sharing with God

ii. Use all the words. Don't be abstract or general.

1. My prayer life has hinged on my ability to begin talking to him directly, brashly, unfilteredly.

a. Where the recitation has turned into relationship

iii. **In a minute I'll give you a chance to pray:**

iv. **Bound:** tell God your anger! Totally and completely unfiltered.

1. Tell God where you're scared, hurt, offended, and feel hopeless

2. **Pray: God, I'm hurt and angry. Show me how I'm safe in your arms.**

v. **Trophy:** Show up in prayer without your makeup. Without your credentials.

1. **Pray: God, only you can give me a secure identity. Come close and tell me who I am.**

vi. **Haunted:** Tell God your anger and your fear. Tell him your secrets. Try to scare him away. And risk letting him in.

1. **Pray: God, I'm afraid if you really knew me, you wouldn't want me. But I'm so lonely and tired. Search me and know me, all the way."**

vii. **Invisible:** Tell God something real about how you're feeling. Begin to have and share your opinions and desires with him (without worrying if you're right).

1. **Pray: God it's so hard for me to bring my full self to you. Help me recognize my needs. And please will you meet those needs.**

b. Take a moment and pray.

25. Also encourage you:

a. Tell a friend or spouse where you connect to these quadrants/styles

b. Get more deeply connected to Christian community

i. Visit a small group -> back table or online

c. Take the courage to speak to a pastor and/or counselor to discern next steps.

i. If you're wanting to take next steps of healing with your own sexual addiction and unwanted behaviors, talk to me as we're about to launch another round of our 7 Pillars of Freedom for Men groups this fall. Talk to me in person or via email at davegeldart@tallgrassatthewell.church.

26. PAUSE: Do you sense God's Spirit saying anything to you in response to this?

27. PAUSE: Is there something you'd like to say to him?