

Generous Access 慷慨的接近通往

Luke 路加福音 11:1-13 & 18:1-8

USED 使用: 3rd September 2023 年 9 月 3 日(Father's Day 父親節)

An atheist was hiking in the Alaskan wilderness when, to his horror, a HUGE *grizzly* bear came charging towards him on the track.

一位無神論者在阿拉斯加的荒野徒步旅行，忽然有一隻巨大的灰熊在他的路途上向他衝來，使他非常驚恐。

Moments later, he was pinned to the ground by the bear. It had its paw raised, ready to strike.

不一會兒，他就被熊按在了地上。熊舉起了爪，準備攻擊。

Without any thought, he screamed out: *Please God, help me!!* The bear was momentarily disorientated.

他立刻不假思索地大聲喊：**神呀，求祢救救我！！**灰熊瞬間停了不知所措。

The atheist realised the inconsistency of saying God doesn't exist and calling out to him when in need.

無神論者意識到說上帝不存在，然後在需要時向他呼喚是不一致的。

He decides to challenge God instead: *if you exist, then prove it and make this bear a Christian.*

他決定挑戰上帝：**如果你存在，那就證明，並讓這隻熊成為基督徒。**

After all, if the bear was a Christian, it would have to turn the other cheek and not kill him...and he could live as he did before.

畢竟，如果熊是基督徒，那麼它就必須轉過另一邊臉，而不殺他.....他就可以像以前一樣繼續生活。

Would you believe it? At that moment, the bear pulled back his paw... knelt beside him...clapped its paws together...bowed its head, closed its eyes...and prayed...

你會相信嗎？在那一刻，灰熊收回了他的爪.....跪在他身邊.....雙爪合起來.....低下頭，閉上眼睛.....並祈禱.....

For what I'm about to receive. May the Lord make me truly thankful.

為了我即將領受的，願主讓我真正感恩。

While I don't think bears pray, most humans on this planet will pray at least some time in their lives.

雖然我不認為灰熊會祈禱，但這個星球上的大多數人至少會在一生中的某個時候祈禱。

While prayer is virtually a worldwide activity, what 'prayer' means is vastly different from individual to individual.

雖然祈禱實際上是一項全球性的活動，但「祈禱」的含義是因人而異。

The difference comes down to what we think God is like and what we believe our relationship with him is like.

歸根結底那差異是在於我們認為上帝是什麼樣的，以及我們認為我們與祂的關係是什麼樣的。

You might be here thinking this isn't relevant to you because you don't identify as religious and are not a pray-er. That's okay.

您可能會認為這些與您無關，因為您不認為自己是教徒，而且也不是會祈禱的人。沒關係。

On any Sunday when we gather like this, we have a great deal of diversity on the faith spectrum. Some know what they believe, but some don't know what they think.

在任何一個週日，當我們像這樣聚集在一起時，我們之間的信仰範圍都存在很大的多樣性。有些人確實知道他們信什麼，但有些人真的不知道他們信什麼。

Some are even dubious about some or all of Christianity. This is one of the great things about St Paul's.

有些人甚至對基督教的部分或全部表示懷疑。這就是聖保羅堂的偉大之處之一。

I encourage you to stay tuned because prayer is a clue to your heart. Prayer is almost an involuntary reflex of the human soul.

讓我鼓勵你去繼續關注，因為祈禱是通往你內心的線索。祈禱幾乎是人類靈魂的一種不由自主的反射。

You have most likely prayed no matter what you believe or how unbelieving you are. The American writer, humourist and enthusiastic unbeliever Mark Twain admitted that when his wife was dying, he *prayed and prayed and prayed like a dog*.

無論你信什麼，或者你多麼不信，你很可能曾經祈禱過。美國作家、幽默家和熱情的非信徒馬克吐溫承認，當他的妻子臨死時，他像狗一樣祈禱、祈禱、祈禱。

A former Prime Minister of Australia, an atheist, used to regularly say to the media when addressing a disaster or tragedy, *my thoughts and prayers are with them*.

一位澳大利亞前總理是無神論者，他在談到災難或悲劇時經常對媒體說，*我的思念和祈禱與他們同在*。

When our defences are down and at our most unnatural when we are not thinking but reacting, when terrible things have happened and we are desperate, it tells us what we are really like and who we really are.

當我們的防禦能力崩潰下降，處於最不自然的狀態時，當我們不思考而是做出反應時，當可怕的事情發生而我們感到絕望時，它會告訴我們我們到底是什麼樣的人，以及我們到底是誰。

We are all religious. It is what makes us human. When we experience deep vulnerability and our limitations as humans, we pray. To not pray dehumanises us. Stay tuned as we explore the uniqueness of Christian prayer.

我們都有宗教信仰，正是它使我們成為人類。當我們經歷深深的脆弱和人類的局限性時，我們會祈禱。不祈禱會使我們喪失人性。我們將要探索基督教祈禱的獨特性，請繼續關注。

SHAMELESS ACCESS 沒有羞恥不顧面子的接近通往

Jesus is praying at the beginning of Luke 11, and his disciples ask him to teach them to pray. Jesus tells them a story. There is a man in bed at midnight.

耶穌在《路加福音》11章開始時在禱告，門徒請他教導他們禱告。耶穌給他們講了一個故事。午夜時分有一個男人正躺在床上。

There was no electricity, and it really was midnight. He would have been sound asleep. The cat's out, and the door is locked. He's most likely in the

沒有電，真的是黑夜。他本來應該睡得很熟的。貓出去了，門鎖上了。他最有可能在

The person knocking on the door is not coming to him with an emergency. He does not need assistance for a wife in labour or a sick kid. He needs some bread.

敲門的人並不是帶著緊急情況來找他的。他不需要幫助臨產的妻子或生病的孩子。他需要一些麵包。

Eventually, the man who is knocking gets what he asks for. Why? Not because he is his friend, it's because what v.8 says is his *shameless audacity*.

最終，敲門的人得到了他想要的東西。為什麼？不是因為他是他的朋友，而是因為第 8 節所說的不顧面子地直求。

Jesus is putting up an approach to prayer opposite to other religions and what common sense says about prayer. *Shameless* can be translated as rudeness, discourteous, impertinence, or impudence.

耶穌在這裡提出了一種與其他宗教和關於祈禱的常識相反的祈禱方法。*不顧面子*一詞可以翻譯為粗魯、失禮的、莽撞、厚顏無恥。

This is the model for Christian prayer according to Jesus. Bother God. *Bother* is in the text, too. He continued to bother, and he got his bread. Jesus says, pray like that.

這就是耶穌所說的基督徒祈禱的典範。打擾上帝。經文中也有用打擾這詞。他繼續的打擾，終於得到了麵包。耶穌說，要這樣禱告。

Jesus repeats it in the Luke 18 passage. He tells a similar story. There is an indifferent and unjust judge and a widow seeking justice. The judge doesn't want to give it to her, but finally, he caves in.

耶穌在《路加福音》18 章又說了一遍。他講了一個類似的故事。有一個冷漠不義的官，和一個尋求正義的寡婦。那官本不想受理，但最終他屈服了。

It says in v.5 that *because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice...* Then, in v.7, Jesus says: *And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you; he will see that they get justice, and quickly.*

第 5 節中說，只因這寡婦煩擾我，我就給她伸冤吧.....然後在第 7 節中，耶穌說：上帝的選民晝夜呼籲他，他豈會延遲不給他們伸冤嗎？我告訴你們，他很快就要給他們伸冤。

Day and night, shamelessly bother God. Okay, on the surface, this doesn't present a very attractive image of Christian prayer. It is important to dig a little deeper.

日日夜夜，不顧面子地打擾上帝。好吧，從表面上看，這並沒有呈現出非常有吸引力的基督教祈禱形象。去更深入探討是很重要。

Jesus is telling a parable. It is not an allegory. In an allegory, every part of the story corresponds to a spiritual truth. In a parable, there is one point.

耶穌講的是一個比喻，而不是一個寓言。在寓言中，故事的每一部分都對應著一個屬靈的真理。在比喻中，只有一個要點。

Jesus was not asked how God receives prayers but how we present our prayers. Jesus is not teaching that God answers prayers like the friend asleep in his house or like the unjust judge.

耶穌沒有被問到神如何接受禱告，而是被問我們如何表達我們的祈禱。耶穌並不是在教導神就像在家裡熟睡的朋友或不義的官一樣去回應禱告。

The question is how we go to God with our prayer, and he says relentlessly, shamelessly, rudely, discourteously, constantly, with familiarity.

問題是我們如何通過祈禱來到上帝面前，他說道要毫不留情地、不顧面子地、粗魯地、無禮地、不斷地、熟悉地。

GENEROUS ACCESS 慷慨的接近通往

How is it possible that we can pray like this when no other religion does it, and it doesn't even fit with common sense? Jesus gives us the answer, and it is very important. The Christian is to pray shamelessly because, as God's children, we have generously received complete access to him.

當沒有其他宗教這樣做，而且這甚至不符合常識，我們怎麼能這樣祈禱呢？耶穌給了我們答案，這是非常重要的。基督徒應該不顧面子地祈禱，因為作為上帝的兒女，我們已經慷慨地獲得了完全接近他的機會。

The key to all this is the Christian teaching on adoption. In vv11-13, the metaphor for prayer changes to a father/child relationship. Jesus did not say to his disciples when they asked him to teach them who to pray in vv1-2...*Our Friend, or Judge who is in heaven.*

這一切的關鍵是基督教關於收養的教義。在第 11-13 節中，引用了父子關係作禱告的隱喻。當門徒在第 1-2 節中要求他教導他們該如何禱告時，耶穌並沒有對他們說.....*我們的朋友，或天上的審判者。*

What Jesus says about prayer only makes sense in family terms. To trust and relentlessly bug God is only something a child can do. Only as we see ourselves as his children does prayer like this make sense.

耶穌所說的有關禱告的內容只有在家庭方面才有意義。信靠上帝並不斷地打擾上帝，只有是小孩子才能做到。只有當我們將自己視為祂的孩子時，這樣的祈禱才有意義。

Think of the great rulers and powerful people of the world; their little children are the only people who can approach them and take such liberties. Even their spouses can't do it in the same way. The reminding you of what you said. The tugging at your shirt.

想想世界上偉大的統治者和有權有勢的人，他們的兒女是唯一能夠接近他們並採取這種自由的人。甚至他們的配偶也不能以同樣的方式做到這一點。提醒你你說過的話。拉扯你的襯衫。

The child also can't distinguish between a big petition and a little one. They are shameless in what they ask for. What is rude and shameless in relating to my wife, neighbours, or you, is not so when I come to my heavenly Father.

孩子也分不清大請願和小請願。他們的要求是厚顏無恥的。對於我的妻子、鄰居或你是粗魯和無恥的，當我來到天父面前時，就不再是了。

There is no way to understand what Jesus says about prayer unless we see that our relationship with God is radically changed when we become a Christian.

除非我們看到當我們成為基督徒時我們與神的關係發生了根本性的改變，否則我們無法理解耶穌所說的關於禱告的內容。

Christian prayer only works on family terms. John 1:12 says: *to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*

基督徒的禱告只適用於家庭。《約翰福音》1:12 說：凡接納他的，就是信他名的人，他就賜他們權柄作上帝的兒女。

Too many think that a Christian is someone who tries hard to do their best. That is relating to God like a boss. If you sign an employment contract, you expect benefits.

太多人認為基督徒就是努力做到最好的人。這就是像對老闆一樣與上帝相處。如果您簽訂了僱傭合同，您會期望獲得福利。

Sometimes, you will go into the boss's office and ask for extra benefits, but you don't go in the way a little child does. If God is like your boss, you go to him formally, with a sense you have earned it. But that is not what it means to be a Christian.

有時，你會走進老闆的辦公室，要求額外的福利，但你不會像小孩子那樣進去。如果上帝就像你的老闆，那麼你就會正規正矩地去找他，並有一種這是你應得的感覺。但這並不是作為基督徒的意義。

A Christian is not one who works for God but one who has been adopted into his family. Adoption is not a change of nature or behaviour. It is a change of status, but the act of a parent.

基督徒不是為上帝工作的人，而是被收養入祂的家庭的人。收養不是性質或行為的改變，而是根據父母的行動達成的身份的改變。

How is this kind of generous access possible? It's possible because Jesus Christ is not merely an example for us to follow but is a representative of our substitution.

這種慷慨的接納是如何實現的呢？是因為耶穌基督不僅是我們效仿的榜樣，而且是我們的替代的代表而成為可能。

Jesus came and lived a perfect life and died in our place for our imperfect life so that we can have a relationship with God. Jesus has made it possible for us to be adopted into God's family. Jesus has made it possible for us to pray, *OUR FATHER...*

耶穌來了，過著完美的生活，並為我們不完美的生活而死，以便我們能夠與上帝建立關係。耶穌使我們能夠被收養進入上帝的家庭。耶穌使我們能夠祈禱，*我們的天父.....*

All this leads Jesus to say in v.9: *Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.*

這一切導致耶穌在第 9 節說：*祈求，就給你們；尋找，就找到；叩門，就給你們開門。*

This instruction from Jesus to bother God in prayer feels inconsistent with his teaching to feel secure in the love of the Father.

耶穌指示我們在禱告中去打擾上帝與他教導我們在天父的愛中去感受平安不一致。

This is where we see a sudden turn in verse 11 with the shift from the image of a **grumpy friend** to the image of a **caring Father**.

這就是我們在 11 節看到的突然轉變，從一個脾氣暴躁的朋友的形象轉變為一個慈愛的父親的形象。

Jesus is saying that God is **NOT** like that friend in the house. God is the caring, loving, approachable Father.

耶穌是在說，神不像那在屋裡的朋友。上帝是一位關懷、慈愛、平易近人的父親。

Verses 11–13 unpack for us the security implied in this word, *Father*.

第 11-13 節為我們解開了「父啊，」這個詞所隱含的安全感。

“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

「你們中間作父親的，誰有兒子求魚，反拿蛇當魚給他呢？求雞蛋，反給他蠍子呢？你們雖然不好，尚且知道拿好東西給兒女，何況天父，他豈不更要把聖靈賜給求他的人嗎？」

The words *how much more* mean something utterly important for us.

「何況...豈不更要」這個詞對我們來說意味著非常重要的事情。

They mean that God is much more inclined to hear me and help me when I pray than I am willing to hear and help my girls when they ask me for it. That is astonishing to me!

他們的意思是，當我祈禱時，上帝比我在我的女兒們向我求任何東西時更願意傾聽並幫助我。這讓我很驚訝！

Jesus wants us to feel secure in the Father’s love when we come to him in prayer.

耶穌希望我們在禱告中來到天父面前時，能在天父的愛中感到安全。

He does not want us to feel precarious, unsure of our acceptance, or fearful that we will find the Father out of sorts or unconcerned.

他不希望我們感到不穩定，不確定我們是否被接受或擔心我們會發現天父不理會我們或漠不關心。

This sense of security is utterly crucial in the life of prayer. You can’t sustain a life of prayer if you believe God is a boss **stonewalling** you, or **angry** with you, or even **neutral** to you.

這種安全感在禱告生活中至關重要。如果你相信神是一個阻礙你的老闆，或者對你生氣，甚至對你保持中立，你就無法維持禱告的生活。

Prayer is sustained by the confidence that God is our Father, and that he is concerned, and that his disposition is just what Jesus says it is.

禱告是靠相信神是我們的天父，他關心我們，他的性情正如耶穌所說的那樣來支撐。

HUMBLE ACCESS 卑微的接近通往

God sometimes gives us what we need only after a long season of prevailing and persisting in prayer, but it is **not** because he is uncaring or insensitive or unable.

有時，上帝只有在漫長並堅持不懈的禱告之後才會賜給我們所需要的東西，但這並不是因為他漠不關心、麻木不仁或無能為力。

Jesus does not tell us directly why the answers to our prayers are postponed, but he does tell us indirectly.

耶穌沒有直接告訴我們為什麼禱告遲遲得不到回應，但他確實間接地告訴了我們。

He says in verse 11 that a good father will not give his son a snake if he asks for a fish...but he is also not going to give them a snake if they ask for a snake.

他在第 11 節中說，如果兒子要魚，一個好父親不會給他蛇。...但如果他們要蛇，他也不會給他們蛇。

A good father will **only** give his children what is good for them. That is the only answer Jesus gives to our question in this text.

一個好父親**只會**給他的孩子對他們有益的好東西。這是耶穌在這段經文中對我們的問題給出的唯一答案。

When the Father in heaven gives us a slow answer—when he wills that we persevere for a season in prayer without an apparent answer—it is because he is giving us a fish, not a snake.

當天父給我們一個緩慢的答复時——當他希望我們堅持禱告一段時間而沒有明顯的答复時——那是因為他給我們的是一條魚，而不是一條蛇。

Our Heavenly Father gives us what we would have asked for if we knew everything he knows.

如果我們知道天父所知道的一切，我們就會得到我們向祂所要求的東西。

Sometimes, we get angry at God because he doesn't give us what we pray for, even relentlessly pray for. We get angry because we treat God and prayer like Aladdin's lamp – three wishes and you get whatever you want.

有時我們會對神生氣，因為他沒有給我們我們所祈求的，甚至是不懈地祈求的。我們生氣是因為我們把上帝和祈禱當作阿拉丁神燈——三個願望，你得到你要的任何東西。

The reality is though, you wouldn't give a 4-year-old an Aladdin's lamp. If a 4-year-old got hold of one, you would get out of the world because disaster would be the result.

但現實是，你不會給 4 歲的孩子一盞阿拉丁神燈。如果一個四歲的孩子抓住了一個，你就會離開這個世界，因為後果將是災難。

The power of prayer never means that God stops being God. We do not have the wisdom or the grace to run the universe.

禱告的力量絕不意味著神不再是神。我們沒有管理宇宙所需的智慧或恩典。

God is God. He will continue to decide how to run the universe in the ultimate way.

神是神。他將繼續決定如何以最終的方式運行宇宙。

If you are a Christian tuning in right now, I want to challenge you to something. Some of us have had excellent fathers and families, some mediocre, some terrible.

如果你是一名基督徒，現在剛開始參與我們，我想挑戰你一些事情。我們中的一些人擁有優秀的父親和家庭，有些是平庸，有些是很糟糕。

If you watch little children, you will notice that with shameless audacity, they bug their parents trustingly. They expect their parents to care for them and love them.

如果你觀察小孩子，你會發現他們厚顏無恥地滿有信靠地打擾父母。他們期望父母能夠關心他們、愛他們。

Some of us have grown up in families where we learned it didn't work that way, so we have lost those instincts. In fact, we tend to lose trust as we grow up. We lose the sense that we are completely accepted.

我們中的一些人在成長的家庭中了解到，事情並非如此，因此我們失去了這些本能。事實上，隨著我們的成長，我們往往會失去信任。我們失去了自己被完全接受的感覺。

To grow as a Christian, we must get those responses back. Some of us are indifferent or bitter because God hasn't done things as we have asked. We are anxious, bitter, and apathetic because we are not practising the fatherhood of God.

作為一名成長的基督徒，我們必須得到這些回應。我們中的一些人因為神沒有按照我們的要求做事，漠不關心甚至充滿怨恨。我們感到焦慮、痛苦和冷漠，因為我們沒有實踐上帝是父親身份。

Some of us are insecure, uncertain, and holding back in prayer because we feel unworthy. Maybe it's past failures or because fathers have failed in the past. Either way, we don't practice the fatherhood of God but treat him like a boss instead.

我們中的一些人缺乏安全感和不確定性，並因為覺得自己不值得而不敢祈禱。也許是過去的失敗，或者是因為父親過去的失敗。不管怎樣，我們都沒有實踐上帝是父親的身份，而是像對待老闆一樣對待祂。

See what Jesus says in v13: *If you then, though you are evil...he's talking to his disciples! Not you who struggle with sin, have a few rough edges, got some flaws.* He says, 'you who are *evil!*' Yet, they are still God's children, and he is their Father.

看看耶穌在第 13 節中所說的話：**你們雖然不好，尚且知道.....**他正在對他的門徒說話！不是那些與罪惡作鬥爭、有一些粗糙的邊緣、有一些缺陷的人。他說：「你們這些**不好**的人！」然而，他們仍然是神的孩子，神是他們的父親。

So, knock, knock, knock...keep going after the Father. All Christians' ill-discipline, guilt, unworthiness, anxiety, anger, and indifference in prayer is because we have forgotten God is our Father.

所以，叩門，叩門，叩門.....繼續打擾天父。基督徒所有的不好的門徒訓練、內疚、不配、焦慮、憤怒、以及對禱告漠不關心，都是因為我們忘記了神是我們的天父。

That's the Christian, now a closing word for those who may now realise they aren't one because they don't view God as a Father. You may be moral, decent, and religious, but you don't know God as a Father.

這是向基督徒說的，現在是對那些現在可能意識到他們不是基督徒的人的結束語，因為他們不將上帝視為父親。你可能有道德、正派、信仰虔誠，但你不是以神作為一位父親來認識祂。

This kind of child-like, intimate, shameless audacity in prayer is not something you know. Maybe you only pray when you are desperate. That shows you are human, but probably not his child.

你不認識這種孩子般的親密、不顧面子地直求祈禱。你也許只有在絕望的時候才會祈禱。這表明你是人類，但可能不是他的兒女。

Why not make today, Father's Day, the day you give yourself to your Heavenly Father and know this kind of relationship first-hand?

為什麼不把今天，正是父親節，作為你將自己獻給你的天父的日子，並親身了解這種關係。