Text: Luke 11:1-13

**Introduction**

The Iron Man, Tony Stark character in the Marvel movies was the emotional core. I’m sure my kids – at least sometimes – wish they had something like the original Arc Reactor which they saved in the movies as “proof that Tony Stark has a heart.” Proof that their dad has one. But Tony Stark is the emotional core of the films because he’s the one that is always navigating the roles of Father and Son.

On one hand he’s the boy genius, but that genius is always bringing new things into existence that he’s responsible for. He’d rather run away from everything, but Tony ends up being the “hero” that ends up on THE MAN’s (the government’s) side. And as the entire movie arc comes to a close through time travel he gets to see his Father in a whole new light, while at the same time becoming quite a bit like the guy he blamed for being absent. Tony takes the prophet – Dr. Strange – at his word, saves well half of existence by his sacrifice, leaves behind a daughter who will surely blame him for absence, while kinda adopting the orphan spider-man.

I’m not going to tell you that the Marvel movies are any kind of deep mediation on Father’s and Son’s – they aren’t. And I usually take searching for Christian symbols from pop movies to be embarrassing. Maybe because my heart is missing. But the theme of Father’s and Son’s runs through them.

**Text – the Prayer**

And at least how Luke presents the Lord’s Prayer is about Father’s and Son’s. And more than anything else Jesus came to reveal the Father. If there is one thing that brings tears to me it is meditating on The Father of Jesus Christ.

Jesus in the bible and in our dogmatics is The Son, but he is also navigating roles of Father and Son. According to John, everything that was made was made through him. And if you make it, you have responsibility towards it. You don’t just get to abandon your creations. We human Father’s sometimes do. Whether that is physically, emotionally, spiritually, or all three that is a big cause of pain. I don’t think saying all the troubles of the modern world are “daddy issues” is far off. But Jesus didn’t abandon his creation. And his testimony is that neither has His Father.

The disciples of Jesus come to him – like sons to a father – saying, “hey, John the Baptist taught his disciples to prayer, think maybe you could teach us?” Can you fulfill the basic spiritual duty of a Father to teach his sons?

And Jesus gives them this prayer.

First it is addressed to Father. The Royal Son makes all his disciples his brothers and sisters. He gives His Father to all of us. Another guy who famously had “daddy issues” latches onto that with vigor. Luther’s explanation is “believe it.” “With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we many ask him as dear children ask their dear father.” The Father of Jesus Christ is your Father. Believe it.

But what does this get us?

Luther’s repeated explanations to the petitions of the prayer follow the form “this will certainly happen, we pray that it happens to us as well.” The Father is going to do all these things. The only real question is if we accept the gift.

The Reign – the Kingdom of God shall come. Today, in promise, in faith, in Word and Sacrament, hidden under such things as water, bread and wine, seen in the least of these. The Kingdom is here right now. But tomorrow it comes in fulfillment. The kingdoms of this world become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ. And he shall reign forever and ever. It’s going to happen. Believe it.

We do receive our daily bread. The rain falls on the just and the unjust alike. The Word is proclaimed ot the ends of the earth on a daily basis. We pray that we would realize this. Something like Aaron Burr only does too late in the play Hamilton, that the world was big enough for both of us. Recognize our daily bread and receive it with thanksgiving. Our Father gives it daily, and tomorrow says “do it again.” And tomorrow. And tomorrow. Believe it.

Daily he forgives our sins. The Elizabethan’s – the original translators – jumped to trespassing. Going where you don’t have a right. The biblical metaphor in the prayer is debt. We owe. We owe more than we can ever hope to make. And Our Father pays it. He pays it through his son. Tony Stark may have saved half the universe, the Only Son of the Father saved it all. And His one prayer of His Father was “forgive them, they are a bunch of idiots. Forgive them, I made them, and I’ve taken responsibility.” And the Old Man does. Daily. Believe it.

But what about this last Lukan petition? Lead us not into temptation? If you’ve been in a bible study with me, you probably have heard me say that temptation and testing are the same word in both Hebrew and Greek. Don’t lead us into the trap. Don’t play us for the fool. Don’t hand us over to whatever else is out there. “We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us…”. And all you need to do is look at that cross to know that he doesn’t. Satan’s tricks are just that, tricks. He’ judged. The Father does not hand those he has given to His son over. Not a single one of them will be lost. Believe it.

**Text – The Argument**

I think what Jesus adds after this is an argument from the lessor to the greater. He asks these questions “which of you who has a friend would do this horrible thing.” And I imagine everyone around Jesus going - "never happen, wouldn’t do it.” But it’s a heart check. We are all looking for our own Arc Reactors as proof that we have hearts. While our heads are thinking, “2 AM, no way I’m getting up. Let the fool who didn’t prepare go explain it. And that guy who shows up at this hour. What’s he expect, that we’d all hop to it?”

Of course we are that guy when we Go to the Father of Jesus. And while we would tell us to get lost. Because of our impudence, The Father gets up and gives us whatever we need.

“Ask I tell you. Ask and it will be given.”

“What Father would give his son a snake or a scorpion, when he asks for a fish or an egg?” Too many. At least that this the fair answer. Not that we’d admit it that out loud.

And to me this is the give away. “If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts…”. Yes, we know how to do it. We know the right answers to Jesus questions. We know what we should do. But that voice in our head also admits that the chances that we do it are 50/50 at best. Because we are evil, or at least have that sinful nature. We know the right, but choose the wrong.

But our Heavenly Father – the Father of Jesus Christ – is good. He doesn’t just know, He does. He gives good gifts to His children.

And we, because Jesus has made us so, are His children.

Believe it. Ask your Father. He will grant you the Spirit. He does not leave us alone. Amen.