

Lesson 2: The Friend at Midnight

Reference: **Please Read:** Luke 11:5-13

Theme: Don't be Shy or Timid about Seeking God in Prayer – Faith is Bold

Context: Jesus teaching on the subject of prayer - being fervent and focused

Introduction:

It is important to make the connection between the Lord teaching the disciples how to pray and this parable about prayer and the supporting teaching that follows. Jesus clearly reveals the Father's heart in how He responds to our petitions in contrast to the unwillingness of men to help.

- Know also that the Lord will ask us to do things at times that are not convenient
- Come boldly to the throne of Grace; don't be timid, casual or double minded- **James 1:6**
- Like Jesus who set His face like flint (Resolutely) for Jerusalem- **Luke 9:51**

Don't Bother Me

- This captures the urgent needs of people at the most inconvenient times seeking help
- Natural human love and friendship is selfish at its core- **Luke 6:34; 14:12-14**
- Jesus is illustrating the limitations of mankind; they give when it's convenient to them
- Often times however our needs are pressing and urgent, so men will fail us- not God
- Notice this man in need will not take "No" for an answer- he keeps knocking on the door
- The secret to this man getting his request granted was:
 - o NIV- Boldness; KJV- Importunity; NKJV- Persistence; NEB- Shamelessness

Nelson's Bible Dictionary: Importunity- persistence in making a request or demand.

Luke 11:8 AMP

"... yet because of his shameless persistence and insistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs."

So the central truth in this parable is the need for persistence and perseverance in prayer; not giving up, not be dissuaded or deterred. Faith in prayer is not passive, dormant or frail, it's a "go-getting" where failure is not an option.

Question: "Have you ever been in such a need that it required other's help and did they help?"

Matthew 11:12 AMP

And from the days of John the Baptist until the present time, the kingdom of heaven has endured violent assault, and violent men seize it by force [as a precious prize — a share in the heavenly kingdom is sought with most ardent zeal and intense exertion].

- We can't be half-hearted and expect to receive much from the Kingdom of God
- As the old saying goes, "we get out of it what we put into it"
- We reap a harvest in proportion to the effort we put in sowing- **2 Corinthians 9:6.**

Luke 11:9-10

"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. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

The word "Ask" in the Greek is in the present active imperative- a command to keep asking, seeking and knocking. That is also how the Amplified translations interprets it.

- Folks who "Try" prayer as a last resort will generally be disappointed
- **Matthew 5:6** puts it, we must "*hunger and thirst for righteousness*" to receive from God
- The promises of God in our lives requires faith and patience- persevere and not give up

Hebrews 6:11-12

We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

The Father's Willingness

Just reading this parable by itself could leave the impression that we have to likewise bang on heaven's doors to get our prayers answered from a busy, reluctant or disengaged heavenly being.

Nothing could be further from the truth. We must read on after this parable to see how Jesus further explains the dynamics of prayer and the Father's heart to meet our every need without delay- **1 Timothy 5:5-6.**

Luke 11:11-13

"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!"

Question: "Have you ever doubted whether God hears your prayers or not?"

- **Please Read: 1 John 5:14-15**
- With God it's never, sometimes 'Yes' and sometimes 'No' when it's His will
- God's Word is God's will and New Testament – the Bible is God speaking to us

2 Corinthians 1:18-20

But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not "Yes" and "No." For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by me and Silas and Timothy, was not "Yes" and "No," but in him it has always been "Yes." For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

Jesus make a comparison with a parent's love for their children with the Heavenly Father's love for His children, *"...to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine"* in

Ephesians 3:20.

- The Father's love for us is infinite, so there should be no doubt ever- **1 John 5:14-15**
- I like how Jesus in the parable of the unjust judge reveals the Father's passion for us

Luke 18:6-8

And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge 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. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

In Genesis 22:13-14, *"... the Lord will Provide,"* God revealed Himself to Abraham as Jehovah Jireh. The Hebrew root meaning of this redemptive name means: "Jehovah will see to it." In other words, He sees the needs that we have ahead of time and sees to it that they are met when the actual need arises.

Luke 12:32

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom."

Matthew 7:7-11

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. 'Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 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 good gifts to those who ask him!'"

Question: "Why is Jesus comparing the Heavenly Father with natural parents?"