

Prayers that Opens Doors

Luke 11:5-13 NLT

Jesus used parables to teach us deep truths and the spiritual practices by using word pictures that we can related to in everyday life.

It was (and is) very important to Jesus that we not only know the truths and possibilities of our life with God, but we put them into practice.

Jesus said more than once “whoever **does the will** of my Father” will access the Kingdom.

In the parables Jesus teaches the “how too(s) of the kingdom. That is what is happening in Luke 11...

Broaden out the context of our parable on prayer by reading **Luke 11:1-4 NIV** One day Jesus was praying (Modeling Prayer) in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, **teach us** (how) **to pray**, just as John taught his disciples.” **2** He said to them, “When you pray, **say**: “ ‘Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. **3** Give us each day our daily bread. **4** Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.’ ”

In the Lord’s prayer Jesus gave them a specific prayer outline, not a memorized repetitious prayer **(new slide)**

- i) **Pray for a greater love and devotion to Father God.**
- ii) **Pray for God’s elements of God’s Kingdom to manifest, in your life, your family and your world.**
- iii) **Pray each day for your daily needs.**
- iv) **Pray about your own needs for forgiveness and any unforgiven grudges you are carrying.**
- v) **Pray for God to help you overcome temptation and live a life that pleases Him.**

Then Jesus gave them this **Parable of the Annoying Friend!**

Note: **Jesus uses a little humor** to show us how God’s people must be **persistent** in their prayer life.

It encourages believers to pray with **confidence** and **boldness**.

Even our **sleepy friends** will help us at **inconvenience** times if the one **asking is persistent**. **How much more** will God, who loves his people, come to their aid or supply a need when they are **passionate, specific** and **persistent** in their prayer.

The setting is midnight in a small town in Palestine. An unexpected friend has arrived at an inconvenient time.

NTS – in that day there was no text, and no messenger. Their version of Face Time was whatever time the faces showed up!

Social customs dictates that you provide food for that friend! But at midnight you and your family have eaten all the bread and you have nothing to offer. (the disciples are thinking... I hate when that happens!)

Jewish customs of hospitality were very strong, and they required that a guest be cared for lavishly and generously. **But you’ve got nothing!**

You know that another friend in town has some bread, so you go to him, knock on his door, and ask him to lend you three loaves of bread.

The friend would not be happy to be interrupted at this late hour, having already gone to bed.

Imagine this – a typical Jewish home, usually had only one large room where the entire family slept. A lot of times the sleeping area was on an elevated platform at one end.

Often times their animals would sleep inside on the floor level.

With his door locked, and his children with him in bed, the man was definitely settled for the night. To have to get up and get bread would mean disturbing the children, and probably the animals too. He would probably have to find a lamp and light it, so this would wake up the kids and unsettle the animals.

Momma would not be happy!

Men have you ever had that old college buddy call you at midnight to tell you some stupid joke only to find your wife didn't think it was too funny? Or a strange knock on the door and someone keeps on knocking?! Its never a good thing. Trust me!

I love this parable so much because of two reasons. (1) Jesus gives us some practical direction in prayer. (2) Jesus is encouraging us in the value of prayer. He saying prayer matters!

What does this parable say about God?

1) God has a Father's Heart.

- a) I realize some you might think God is sleepy and grumpy and doesn't want to be bothered but that is not true about God.
 - i) The reason why your relationship with God is not what it should be is because your view of God is not what it should be.

Many people don't have a relationship with God because they have the wrong view of God.

- ii) Your view of God determines what kind of relationship you have with God.
- b) Jesus gives us a proper view of God with these 3 words "how much more"

11 "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? **12** Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? **13** 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!"

2) God has the stuff that you need.

- a) The 3 loaves were indicative of kingdom resources.
 - i) God provided manna/bread in the wilderness for Moses and His people.
 - ii) Jesus miraculously multiplied the bread when He fed the 5000.
 - iii) Jesus broke the bread at the last supper and said this is my body!
- b) The bread that God has is not just for you, but for the people who show up in your life.
- c) The key to accessing these resources is persistent prayer.

3) God is not put out with your persistence.

To help people who just show up, you and I have to keep showing up, in prayer!

So keep asking, keep seeking and keep knocking. You have got to get that door opened!

What does this parable say about us?

1) We are often surprised by the unexpected needs.

a) Ever been visited at midnight by an unexpected and inconvenient need?

2) We want to be a blessing but our cupboards are often empty. (Note: Add this slide)

a) When people come knocking do you have any spiritual resources to offer?

i) Note: bread represents the supplies of the kingdom which satisfies hungry hearts.

ii) Do you have any bread to offer or are you living on empty?

b) A prayer life is how you access the bread of heaven.

3) When it comes to prayer, we are easily discouraged.

a) Like the disciples we don't typically have an urgency in prayer.

i) Look how long it took the disciples to ask Jesus to teach them to pray.

- (1) They have seen him Calm the Storm
- (2) Feed the 5000
- (3) Raise a dead girl
- (4) He has sent them out on their own twice
- (5) They saw the transfiguration.

And finally, now they ask him to teach us how to pray!

Like the disciples we have seen God do so many things and we want God to do so many things. Isn't it time we learn how to pray?!

b) Like the disciples we give up too easily.

What decisions need to be made?

8 NLT But I tell you this—though he won't do it for friendship's sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your **shameless persistence**.

9 "And so I tell you, **keep on asking**, and you will receive what you ask for. **Keep on seeking**, and you will find. **Keep on knocking**, and the door will be opened to you. **10** For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who

seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. **11** “You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? **12** Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! **13** So if you sinful people 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.

1) **Be Passionate in Prayer.**

a) **Come with Confidence!**

The friend in need knows his buddy is sleepy and settled in for the night. **But he knows his friend loves him.** They are friends!

b) **There is an increasing intensity of the** “ask,” “the seeking,” “knocking,”.

The passion of the friend:

- i) **I know you are in there!**
- ii) **I know you have what I need!**
- iii) **I know you love me!**

c) **Pray before you post!** Its okay to ask people to pray with you ask yourself, “have I prayed about this need myself?”

2) **Be Specific in your Request.**

a) I need **three loaves** to feed **my guest**. One it not enough and I don’t need twelve!

b) **What happens when we pray in generalities?** **Not much.**

- i) **Pray for your daily bread.**
- ii) Pray for the grace to forgive that **specific offense.**

Don’t just pray for all the mean people in the world will be nice. But you can pray for that Mean Melvin at work who keeps mistreating you.

3) **Be Persistent when you Pray.**

Jesus intentionally arranged these 3 actions of prayer in a rising scale of intensity: ask, seek, knock.

a) **Ask.**

- i) **Asking implies humility and a consciousness of need.** **Don’t be oblivious to the need to pray!**
- ii) The verb to “ask” also implies the **asker expects an answer.**

When you ask, ask in faith! James 1:6

Mark 11:24 NIV Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

b) **Seek.**

i) Seeking is asking plus acting.

ii) Jesus is teaching them that sometimes asking is not enough.

(1) For example, we should not only pray for a deep knowledge of the Bible but we should also diligently search and examine the Scriptures, attend church and learn and above all try to live in harmony with God's will.

iii) Sometimes you have to find out what doors need to be opened.

c) Knock.

i) Knocking is asking plus acting plus persevering.

ii) Jesus is saying its okay to knock, knock again and keep knocking until the door is opened.

The door opens not because hands are bruised, but because pounding hands value what Jesus directs his followers to pray for and because they believe God will answer.

This is the way the Jesus prayed! Jesus spent the whole night on the mountain in prayer before choosing his disciples (Luke 6:12–16) and in the Garden of Gethsemane when He was facing the cross "his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground" (Luke 22:44).

Paul Harvey told about a 3-year-old boy who went to the grocery store with his mother. Before they entered the grocery store she said to him, "Now you're not going to get any chocolate chip cookies, so don't even ask."

She put him up in the cart & he sat in the little child's seat while she wheeled down the aisles. He was doing just fine until they came to the cookie section. He saw the chocolate chip cookies & he stood up in the seat & said, "Mom, can I have some chocolate chip cookies?" She said, "I told you don't even to ask. You're not going to get any cookies." So he sat back down.

They continued down the aisles, but in their search for certain items they ended up back in the cookie aisle. "Mom, can I please have some chocolate chip cookies?" She said, "I told you that you can't have any. Now sit down & be quiet."

Finally, they were approaching the checkout lane. The little boy sensed that this may be his last chance. So just before they got to the line, he stood up on the seat of the cart & shouted in his loudest voice, "In the name of Jesus, may I have some chocolate chip cook-ies?"

And everybody round about just laughed. Some even applauded. And, according to Paul Harvey, due to the generosity of the other shoppers, the little boy & his mother left with 23 boxes of chocolate chip cookies.

Closing: there are 4 friends in this teaching. 3 are identified and one is unseen.

- 1) The visiting friend who shows up at midnight
- 2) The hosting friend who doesn't have anything to eat.
- 3) The sleeping friend who has 3 loaves sitting on the table.
- 4) Then there is the friend who never sleeps!

v. 13 So if you sinful people 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.

This is the friend that you can depend on.

In all your praying, for a deeper dependence and revelation of the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 13:14 MSG The amazing grace of the Master, Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God (Father), the **intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit**, be with all of you.