

## Persistence in Prayer – Parable of the Friend in Need Sermon

Preached at Cloverdale Church 4/28/2024

Luke 11

**<sup>5</sup> And He said to them, “Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; <sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; <sup>7</sup> and he will answer from within and say, ‘Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you’? <sup>8</sup> I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.**

**<sup>9</sup> “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.**

Background: The disciples ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. He does, but behind this instruction he provides a parable to show them the importance for being persistent in praying.

This parable is used to explain how to pray and the importance of persistent prayer. How it works and what to expect. Let’s put ourselves in the story.

Do you have a friend or are you this kind of friend that might come to your house at a very inconvenient moment. They come asking if you can help them so they can serve some other friend. Get this now. You are their friend, but they come to you asking if you can help them, help and minister to their friend, and they have the nerve to come at a time when they know you are probably sleeping and not trying to hear this. I think I understand the initial response in the parable.

- Man, you are crazy. Are you out of your mind coming around here at this hour. Everybody in the house is sleeping. I can’t get up, and I ain’t getting up. In fact, you almost got shot knocking on my door at this hour.
- Matter of fact, don’t text me, IM me, or call me this late at night over some dumb stuff.
- Who let the dogs out? I did if you don’t get away from my door.

Jesus explains that he ain’t about to get up just because they are friends. You got that right. But if this friend, just keeps asking, then eventually he will get up and give him what he needs.

I guess I will get up and provide what he is asking for.

- It must be important to them if they still there asking.

- They must not have anywhere else to turn.
- They must understand that I have what they need. They must truly believe that I have the ability and capability to hook them up.
- They must know that if they keep asking I will eventually hook them up. They must believe that and know me like that.
- They must believe that I'm truly their friend or they wouldn't still be coming at me like this.
- They must believe that I may even give him more than what he asked for.

From this parable, Jesus explains how this works in the spiritual realm.

**<sup>9</sup>“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.**

So = therefore, or as a result of this story, God works and the Kingdom operates in a similar fashion.

- If you ask, then you will receive. Didn't say what you will receive, but in the story, you will get what you need.
- If you are looking for a hookup you will find it. If you come to His door, you will see that God will open up the door to you.
- I need to ask and believe as the friend does in the parable.
  - No matter what time of day or night, I can make my request known.
  - I need to tell him what I need; especially if the need is to serve and minister to someone else.
  - If I don't get a response right away, if my problem is still there when I ask the first time, I'm just going to stay right there and just keep asking.
- Note: I used to think that to keep asking for the same thing over and over, was a lack of faith on my part. That might be the case sometimes. Maybe God didn't hear me the first time. Maybe I didn't come correct. All these things might be true, but when you know He hears you and you know you are coming correct, then it is not a lack of faith, but instead it is greater faith. Why?
  - Because I know I can't do this on my own. I have a real need.
  - Because I have no where else to turn, so I stop trying to figure it out my way and I turn to trusting in God.
  - Because I believe and have hope that God has the ability and capability to hook me up.
  - Because I know if I keep asking He will eventually hook them up.

- Because I know He works like that, never too late, always on time. I'm just showing up again letting Him see my faith in that I'm still here. I ain't run out, ain't punked out, I ain't gave up, I'm still standing on the promises, God I'm still here waiting for my break through, waiting for my hookup because great is Your faithfulness. One time faith works one time, but faithfulness ain't a moment, it's a lifestyle. It's how I roll.
- I believe Jesus is my friend and I'm a friend of God...I know Him like that. I believe He is truly my friend. Oh, what a friend we have in Jesus. So I just keep coming at Him like this.
- I believe He will give me more than what I need or asked for because my friend has another name and that's Jehovah Jira, my provider.

**<sup>11</sup> If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if *he asks* for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup> Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you then, being 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!"**

You might not get what you want, but you'll get what you need. More than anything else that I think I need and ask for, nothing is more valuable and important than the Holy Ghost. Hook me up with the Holy Ghost first, and all these other things will follow according to His will and for His glory. I got a heavenly Father, He will hook me up.