

Series: Making Much of the Master

A PARABLE OF THREE FRIENDS

LUKE 11

Text: Luke 11:5-8

Introduction:

Jesus had just given one lesson on prayer. It is a young Christian's prayer. It is simple. It is rather general, asking for the entire world to hallow God's name, for His will to be done in all the earth, for our daily bread, forgiveness of sins, and deliverance from temptations.

But the Lord now has another lesson, about another kind of prayer. It is intercessory prayer, for others. I believe that this was the type of praying that took place with the 120 people before Pentecost.

This lesson is taught by the use of a parable.

Parables are earthly stories that teach a spiritual lesson.

While this parable is about prayer it also speaks a lot of friends. The word friend is mentioned four times in these few verses.

Notice:

1. THE CONCERN OF THE FRIEND.

Luke 11:5-6

⁵ And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; ⁶ For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?

A. Was concerned that the needs of his guest were met.

B. Was concerned enough to go out and meet the need.

C. Knew where to go for help.

Notice not only “The Concern of the Friend” but also:

2. THE COMPASSION OF THE FRIEND.

Luke 11:5-6

⁵ *And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;* ⁶ *For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?*

A. Went to his "friends" house to ask for help.

1. Had a humble spirit.

2. Wasn't too proud to let his friend know not only his need but also the need of his visiting friend.

B. Went at an inconvenient time.

1. Midnight, most folks were sleeping soundly at this time.

There are times that a midnight crisis comes to everyone sooner or later.

It is during those times you need a friend the most.

The Lord is such a friend.

Proverbs 18:24

*²⁴ A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly:
and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.*

He is not a fair weather friend.

He is a God who can help in stormy weather as we considered last week when He said to the storm "Peace Be Still."

He is not a God of the day time only, but He is also God of the darkest night.

He not only the God of the mountain but He is God in the valleys

Notice not only "The Concern and Compassion of the Friend" but also:

3. THE COLDNESS OF ONE FRIEND.

A. I believe this could represent a number of people today.

Note many have these attitudes:

1. Don't bother me
2. Don't call me I'll call you.

3. You should have been better prepared.

B. Too many times we close the door in the face of those we are to help.

What would be our reaction if someone we know would knock on our door at midnight not for themselves but for one of their friends?

Notice not only “The Concern, and Compassion of the Friend and the Coldness of the Other Friend” but also:

4. THE CONSISTENCY OF THE FRIEND

Luke 11:8

⁸ I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

A. His importunity (vs. 8)

That word means – shamelessness, impudence.

1. Did not give up after the first request was not granted.

2. Continued to knock and ask unashamedly.

3. His persistence paid off.

Notice not only “The Concern, Compassion, Coldness and Consistency” but lastly:

5. THE CONTRASTS OF THE COLD FRIEND TO OUR TRUE FRIEND JESUS.

The Lord used parables in two ways:

- To teach by comparison
- To teach by contrast

This parable is a contrast.

Note:

A. This is not a comparison of God but rather a contrast. (vs 9-13)

Luke 11:9-13

⁹ And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. ¹⁰ For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. ¹¹ If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? ¹² Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ If ye then, being

evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

B. God desires to meet our needs as well as grant our desires.

1. Notice that the desires were not personal, but for a friend.
2. Prayer is more than asking for ourselves, but being concerned for others.

C. We need to be persistent in prayer.

1. Persistence in prayer overcomes our insensitivity, not Gods.
2. Persistence in prayer does more to change our hearts and minds than God's.
3. Persistence in prayer helps us understand and express the intensity of our need.
4. Persistence in prayer helps us recognize God's work when we see it.

Close:

Perhaps you are here today with a spiritual hunger that only God can provide.

Philosophers have sought the answers to three basic questions for centuries:

1. Where Did I come from?
2. Why Am I here?
3. Where am I going?

Without the answers to these questions, there will always be a void in your life – No lasting fulfillment.

Only God can give you a satisfactory answer to these questions.

Will you come to Him who alone can satisfy your deepest spiritual needs?

Maybe you are here today and you have a friend who has spiritual needs – how much are you willing to plead for them so that their need will be met?

What kind of friend are you to those in need?