

Prayer and the Parable of the Inconsiderate Friend (Luke 11:5-13)

I. The Parable

A. The Context

1. Praying like Jesus (Luke 11:1-4): Jesus has explored the question of prayer with his disciples, teaching them how to pray as John had taught his disciples. Jesus's prayer functions like a temple, a place where those who seek God might be able to find God. But it does not require a particular place of pilgrimage but it does require one whose heart is willing to submit to the will of God.
2. The power of Jesus over evil (Luke 11:14-26): After Jesus has dealt with the topic of prayer, he is challenged by unbelief. He is accused of being in league with the devil. They claim that the only way he is able to drive out demons is because the prince of demons has given is on his side, or rather, that he is on the devil's side. This is nonsense. Jesus proves that good is the only thing that can drive out evil. It is no coincidence that he promises That God's goodness is what we find when we truly pray to him as our Father.

B. The Parable's Contents (Luke 11:5-8)

1. A Man and his Family: Jesus elaborates on the importance of prayer to God as Father through the teaching of a parable about a father and his children. The father has closed the door in his house. The door was shut for protection and the father was sleeping with his children. Such would be the case in a one roomed house was common in the ancient world. At this point, he was down for the night and did not want to further disturb his children. He was in comfort and his children were in comfort in their beds.
2. The Inconsiderate (Persistent) Friend: A friend comes to the father's house, knocking on the door and calling to him for assistance. He needed bread to care for those who were visiting with him. This was completely inconsiderate of him to bother this man and his children at midnight for himself. But because he kept knocking the father gave him some bread.

II. Lessons on Prayer and Seeking God (Luke 11:9-13)

- A. God is a Good and Loving Father: When we come to God, we should always come out of our sense of relationship as his children. We need to know that God cares for us and that we are here because he cares for us.
- B. God Does Want Quitters: We should always talk to God. When things are good, we should talk, when things are bad, we should talk. We should come to God and ask him for what we need persistently. As the lesson of the parable demonstrated, the father helped his friend because he kept asking, not because he was his friend. God rewards those who keep asking who are his children.