

Week 3 Prayer & Temptation: Friend @ Midnight *Luke 11:1-13*

1. Context: The Lord's Prayer – 'Teach us to pray.... Like YOU DO!' (**Luke 11:1-4**)

Jesus focusses on the challenge of TEMPTATION! But he does not give direct teaching, but tells a parable!

In the Matthew account of the Lord's Prayer, Jesus focussed on FORGIVENESS (Matthew 6:12,14,15)

Do you find it hard to forgive? Do you find holding a grudge a huge temptation? Pray about it!

→ '... forgive us as we forgive others – and lead us not into temptation!' – LINKED!

This should give impetus to our prayers. This should give us confidence in prayer!

2. Friend at Midnight: **Luke 11:5-8**

- Who is the friend we go to at midnight?..... in prayer... at a time of extreme need... God
- In the parable we are the one IN NEED and going to a friend for help!
- But we also learn about how to respond to someone who comes to us for help!! Be like God.

The request: Why **THREE LOAVES**? (**vs. 5**)

- Let's do the bread first... bread = God's Word. The solution to any spiritual crisis!
 - o "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every WORD that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4) **JESUS' ANSWER TO HIS TEMPTATION!!!!**
 - o Jesus said: "I am the BREAD of life. My flesh is FOOD indeed" (John 6)
 - Why **3** loaves?
 - o Temptation comes in **3** forms → lust of flesh, eyes, and pride (1 John 2)
 - o God's Word provides **3** antidotes → hope, faith, and love (1 Cor. 13)
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| Lust of the Flesh → Want it now | Hope → Wait for it |
| Lust of the Eyes → See only the Present | Faith → See the Future |
| Pride of Life → It is all about me | Love → It is NOT all about me |

The Visitor: A friend in his journey has come to me... who is this? (**vs. 6**)

Echo?? Nathan's parable to David 2 Samuel 12:4 – 'a traveller came to the rich man'

Note: Luke 11:4 – LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION! Do we MEAN this when we pray it??!!

The traveller/friend is TEMPTATION! And unchecked temptation leads to SIN! Which leads to DEATH!

Romans 6:23; James 1:14-15

"I have nothing to set before him" → I have no answer for temptation's challenges! I'm spiritually weak!

The Response: Trouble me not... (**vs. 7-8**) Everything about this request is inconvenient (sin & temptation are like that!!!) But that is NOT an excuse to NOT go to the Father in prayer!!!!

Imagine how you would act in a literal, physical need situation... this is spiritual, and even MORE serious!

'importunity' (KJV) – 'persistence' (NJKV) literally: Not shamefaced; Not reverent – BOLDNESS. This is LIFE & DEATH!! Don't stop asking for help in a time of temptation! Don't be embarrassed to ask for help!

It is a case of extreme need – this parable is about the importance of persistence in prayer – especially when battling temptation & sin!

Like when trying hard to forgive others and finding it overwhelming! (See Luke 17:5 – increase our faith)

We must approach with BOLDNESS – especially when we need help!!! Hebrews 4:16

The real friend gave 'as much as he needed' – because of his necessity and urgency!

What he needed was the strength to overcome sin – and it was given him! (Is there anything more important that God could give us?) See **Luke 11:9-13** – ASK for it!!!!

If this UNWILLING friend responded HOW MUCH more will God respond – all we have to do is ASK!!! God WANTS to give us the strength to succeed, to overcome, to remain faithful – ask for this!