


# Exploring the Bible Series 3: Parables Unique to the Gospel of Luke



Week 3 - Prayer: The Friend  
at Midnight (Luke 11:1-13)

# Friend @ Midnight *Luke 11:5-13*

- Context:

- (before) The Lord's Prayer (v.1-4)

v1 Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

v2 So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

v3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

v4 And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one."



# Echo: Lord's Prayer Matthew 6

- v12 And **forgive** us our debts, As we **forgive** our debtors.
- v14 "For if you **forgive** men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also **forgive** you.
- v15 "But if you do not **forgive** men their trespasses, neither will your Father **forgive** your trespasses.

In the Matthew account of the Lord's Prayer, Jesus focussed on **FORGIVENESS**  
In Luke Jesus focusses on the challenge of **TEMPTATION!**

He does not give direct teaching, but instead he tells a parable!



# Details of parable: Luke 11:5-8

The story of 3 'friends'...

- The host (unprepared for the visitor)
- The traveller/visitor (arriving at midnight!)
- The neighbour (inconvenienced by the other two!)





# The Request

Why THREE loaves of **BREAD**? ...

- ✓ Bread? → “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!!!!**
- ✓ Jesus said: “I am the BREAD of life. My flesh is FOOD indeed” (John 6:35,48,55)



# The Request

Why **THREE** loaves of BREAD? ...

- ✓ Temptation comes in **3** forms → lust of flesh, eyes, and pride (1 John 2:16)
- ✓ God's Word provides **3** antidotes → hope, faith, and love (1 Cor. 13:13)

Lust of the Flesh → Want it now

Hope → Wait for it

Lust of the Eyes → See 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’ → NOT David’s normal behaviour!
- 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! I need HELP!!!



# 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!!!!



# 'importunity' (KJV)

- persistence (NKJV)
- literally: Without shamefacedness,  
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!

“as many as he needeth...”

- Matthew 6:32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have **need** of all these things.
- Luke 12:30 For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye **have need** of these things.

# Friend @ Midnight *Luke 11:5-13*

- Context: “Lead us not into temptation....
    - (after) This is what we pray for (v.9-13)
- V9-10 "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. For everyone who **asks** receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”
- V11-13 "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? Or if he **asks** for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 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!"