

Side By Side - The Friend at Midnight

Ice Breaker: Recal a time when God undoubtedly answered your prayer.

The context – Jesus teaches about the content of prayer...

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” He said to them, “When you pray, say: ‘Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come (your will be done on earth as it is in heaven). Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.’” **(Luke 11:1-4)** Do you remember this prayer as a child? If so, which part has always stuck out to you? In this prayer what two concerns related to God come first? What personal concerns then follow? How do prayer and forgiveness relate?

The parable - Jesus teaches about the attitude of prayer...

Then He said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.’ Then the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’”
(vv. 5-7)

🕒 **The big idea in the earthly story – a bold and shameless request...**

Whether directed at humans or God, how do you generally feel about a bold and shameless request?

“I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man’s boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs.” (v. 8)

He will not let your foot slip – He who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. **(Psalm 121:3-4)**

The applications...

Pray boldly – God invites you to...

- **(Pursue) keep on asking** – “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you...” (v. 9)
- **(Persist) keep on seeking** – “...seek and you will find...” (v. 9)
- **(Expect) keep on knocking** – “...knock and the door will be opened to you...” (v. 9)

“For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”
(v. 10)

Trust fully – God loves you...

“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” (vv. 11-13)

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. **(Eph. 6:18)**

Which of the applications above could you practice right now in your prayer life? How will you do it?