



The Miracles and Mysteries of Prayer Luke 11:9-13

We have been given a “ride all night” pass in prayer.

⁹ And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Text Message:

- o The first word “and” in Verse 9 connects Jesus’ words here on prayer to the previous Parable of the Friend at Midnight.
- o Remember, this parable *is not* about a friend

at midnight getting bread because he was a pest, but to make the comparison of a friend and God: if a friend would get up at midnight to give you bread, how much more will “Our Father.”

- o We are summoned to pray because God is so much greater, compassionate, and willing than the best of friends!
- o Therefore, Jesus invites us to pray and not stop!
- o All three verbs refer to continual action, and could be translated as “Keep on asking, seeking, knocking...”

We can expect both miracle and mystery in prayer.

Verse 10:

Text Message:

- o Notice here the assurance of being answered!
- o There are no ands, ifs, or buts!
- o Once again, we are confronted with the thorny issue of unanswered prayer.
- o Yet, **the Bible reveals both miracle and**

mystery in prayer:

1)The miracle-working prophet Elisha died of an illness (2 Kings 13:14).

2)The miracle-working Apostle Paul left his friend Trophimus ill in the city of Miletus (2 Timothy 4:20).

3)Both miracle-working Apostles Peter and Paul received miraculous deliverances from death **but** would later write of their impending deaths (Peter: Acts 12:11, 2 Peter 1:14; Paul: 2 Timothy 4:17, 4:6).

- o Perhaps the best example is our Lord Jesus Christ, who in mystery, “saved others but couldn’t save himself.” Only in time would this mystery be revealed.
- o One day mystery will be no more (1 Corinthians 13:12)!
- o Until then, we live by faith with both miracle and mystery.

We can trust our Father’s heart even when we can’t see His hand.

Verse 11-13:

Text Message:

- o In some prayers, only God knows the difference between a fish and a serpent and egg and a scorpion!
- o As in the parable, Jesus concludes with a “how much more” comparison (קַל וְחֹמֶר, *kal vahomer*). This time, God is seen not only greater as any friend, but also any human father!
- o Here Luke refers to the giving of the Holy Spirit. In Matthew, the giving of the Father is “good things” (Matthew 7:11).
- o The Greek word in Matthew 7:11 translated “good things” is αγαθος (*agathos*), literally “good.”
- o Therefore, keep on keeping on in prayer!