



YES
NO
MAYBE

1 I tell my close friends that they can call at any time of the night if they need, but I don't really mean it.

2 If I was in a jam, I have a neighbor that I could awaken, and they would help me.

3 God waits until we are really serious before He grants our prayer requests.

4 If you are not persistent, you will not experience spiritual growth.

5 You can wear God down so that He'll give you what you're asking for.

^| Why does God answer some prayers and not others?

READ Luke 11:5-13 [NIV]

5 Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; 6 a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.' 7 And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' 8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

11 "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 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!"

^| What details have troubled you over the years about this Kingdom Tale?

Î THE WORDS THEY HEARD...

° (v. 5) **Midnight** [μεσονυκτίου - *mesonuktiou*] The heat in warm countries makes evening preferable to-day for traveling; but "midnight" is everywhere a most unreasonable hour.

° (v. 5) **Three loaves of bread** [τρεις ἄρτους - *treis artous*] Why three? Why bread?

° (v. 7) **Don't bother me...my children and I are in bed** - [κόπους παρέχε... μου μετ' ἐμοῦ εἰς τὴν κοίτην εἰσίν - *kópous páreche...mou met emou eis ten koiten eisin*] Does this match the character of God? Why would Jesus characterize the "help" like this?

° (v. 8) **Quality friend vs. Shameless audacity** - Jesus says that the man did not help because he was literally a "quality friend," he helped because of the neighbor's shameless audacity. What is Jesus trying to tell us about God's nature here?

° (v. 9-10) How do verses 9 and 10 help to explain verse 8?



↑ HOW JESUS RESPONDS...

∞ Verses 11-1 bring up an example of what the rabbis called a Qal wahomer argument.

It is based on the assumption that if A (11:11-12) is true, how much more must B (11:13) be true.

∞ What do you think it means that in response, the Holy Spirit will be given?

∞ How does this change your view of God?

1 How much of my prayers are filled with shameless audacity?

2 What are the consistent motives of my prayers?

3 What do I understand more clearly about God's character, now that I've looked at this Kingdom Tale?

MY
PRAYER

NOTES