

A Parable of Three Friends [A Friend at Midnight]

Luke 11:5-8

The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray (v. 1). In answer to their request Jesus gives them a “model/pattern prayer” (vs. 2-3).

HUMOR: A father was listening to his young son begin to pray, "Dear Harold." His dad interrupted and said, "Wait a minute, son. Why did you call God, 'Harold'?" His son answered, "That's what His name is in the Bible. It says, 'Our Father, who art in Heaven, Harold be Thy name.'"

At it's essence **prayer is a relationship**. Our prayers are based on our relationship with God. Without that relationship there can be no true praying.

1. Relationship of a Father and child— "*Our Father...*"
2. Relationship of a King and His subjects— You cannot pray "*Thy Kingdom come,*" until you say, "My kingdom go."
3. Relationship of a beggar needing bread— "*Give us day by day our daily bread.*"
4. Relationship of a sinner asking forgiveness— "*...forgive us our sins...*"
5. Relationship of a friend — "*Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves.*"

All the requests in this “model prayer” are things for self. But in verses 5-8 Jesus tells a parable to teach another aspect of prayer called intercessory prayer—Praying for bread to satisfy the needs of another.

Parables are earthly stories that teach a spiritual lesson. Jesus is referring to more than physical bread.

While this parable is about prayer, it is also about friends. The word “*friend*” occurs four times in the parable. It is “*A Parable of Three Friends.*”

I. **The PERSONS of the parable—**

- A. **The HUNGRY friend** who is on a journey— The journey of life.

1. The hour. We don't know the specific reason why he shows up unexpectedly at midnight. Whatever the reason, it was a dark time. He may have been in some kind of crisis.
 - a) A midnight crisis comes to everyone sooner or later. It is during those times you need a friend the most. God is such a friend. He is not a fair weather friend. He is a God Who can help in stormy weather. He is not a God of the day time only, but He is also God of the darkest night.
 - b) I want to be that kind of friend—A friend a person can come to at whatever hour they need help.
 2. A friend in need. All we know is this man was traveling at night and he was hungry. He knew a friend's house was nearby and came for help. **Blessed is the man who has a friend.**
 3. We all know people who are spiritually hungry. There is a spiritual void in their life.
- B. The HOST friend** who must intercede for his friend.
1. Hospitality and providing food was a social obligation in Christ's time. However, this host is taken "off guard." He wants to help but lacks any bread to put before him.
 2. The host knows of another friend who has some bread, so he goes to him and asks to borrow three loaves of bread.
 - a) His request is unselfish. He is asking not for himself, but for another—An unexpected friend.
 - b) His request is useful. He is asking for a necessity of life—bread. It was not for some delicacy or for some luxuries of life. It was for the most basic and common needs of life.
 3. "*Bread*" in the Bible pictures that which sustains life and satisfies our hunger. It is a basic essential of life.
 - a) God's Word is like bread (Mt. 4:4). It is God's Word that sustains and nourishes our soul and spirit.
 - b) Jesus Christ is "*the Bread of Life*." Jesus said that He is "*the bread of God... which cometh down from heaven, and giv-*

eth life... I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger..." (John 6:33, 35). When observing communion the bread is a symbol of Christ's body broken on the cross, as He suffered for our sins.

C. **The HELPING friend** who provides bread.

1. Every Christian has two friends:
 - a) The Lord Jesus, "*the Bread of life,*" who satisfies our every need and provides eternal life.
 - b) Other friends on the journey of life who also need "*the bread of Life.*"
2. The Christian stands between God, who has the Bread of Life, and his earthly friend who needs that "Bread." The Christian is the channel through which God supply the bread of the Gospel to those who need it.

II. **The PLEADING in the parable.**

A. Jesus used parables in two ways:

1. To teach by **comparison** ("this is like that").
2. To teach by **contrast** ("this is not like that"). In the parable of our text, Jesus is teaching a contrast of what God is not like.
 - a) God is not a sleepy old grouch. God is never troubled by our requests and His door is always open to our prayer (v. 7). Psalms 50:15, "*Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee...*"
 - b) God will sometimes test the earnestness of our faith before answering. Sometimes answers to prayer are delayed, not because God is reluctant and must be nagged, but because He is seeking to reveal in us the intensity for what we ask.

- B. Persistent prayer demonstrates our **conviction and confidence**. We are showing we are very serious and sincere about our request.

➡ **How much do you want your friend to have "*the Bread of Life*"?**

III. The **PROVISION** of the parable.

A. The **AMOUNT**. **THREE** loaves of bread. **#3** in the Bible is God's perfect number. It is the number of the Trinity. **#3** pictures complete fulfillment and sufficiency (Eccl 4:12).

➡ Everything God created consists of three parts.

- Man (body, soul, spirit)
- Light (actinic rays, gamma rays, alpha rays)
- Time (Past, Present, Future)
- Nations (Shem, Ham, Japheth)
- People (Jew, Gentile, Church)
- Gospel (Death, burial, resurrection)
- Divine institutions (Family, Government, Church)
- Sins (thought, word, deed)
- Answers (yes, no, maybe)
- Logic (Major premise, minor premise, conclusion)
- Actions (Motive, Act, consequence)
- Location (land, sea, or in the air)
- Space (length, width, depth)
- Atoms (protons, Neutrons, electrons)
- Earthly kingdoms (Animal, vegetable, mineral)
- Musical notes (pitch, volume, duration)
- Forms of water (liquid, ice, or vapor)

B. The **ABUNDANCE**—The **THREE** loaves teaches God's bread is totally sufficient for what we need and completely satisfies. He always gives **MORE THAN ENOUGH** (John 10:10).

IV. The **PRINCIPLE in the parable**—Only God can satisfy our deepest spiritual needs.

➡ We, in and of ourselves, are inadequate to meet the spiritual hunger of friends around us. So we go confidently to God in prayer on their behalf asking for that bread to feed to our friends who need the Lord Jesus Christ.

SUMMATION: Perhaps you are here with a spiritual hunger that only God can provide. Philosophers have sought the answers to three basic questions for centuries:

1. Where Did I come From?
2. Why Am I here?
3. Where am I going?

Without the answers to these fundamental questions, there will always be an void in your life— No lasting fulfillment. Only God can give you a satisfactory answer to these questions. Will you come to Him who alone can satisfy your deepest spiritual needs.

Maybe you are here today and you have a friend who needs “*the Bread of Life.*” How much do you want them to be saved? How much are you willing to plead for them to have “*the Bread of Life?*”

Your comments are welcomed. Please [CLICK HERE](#).