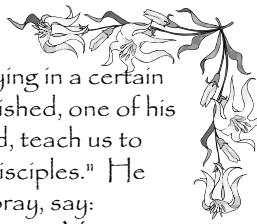


# The Importunate Friend

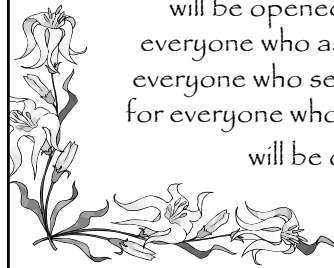
Luke 11:5-8

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him what he needs."

Luke 11:1-4 He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."

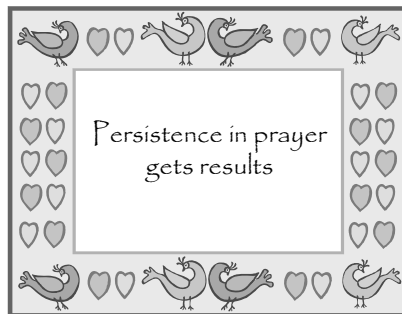


Luke 11:9-10 "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."



What was Jesus saying  
with this parable?

Persistence in prayer  
gets results



## Knock Knock... Who's There?

Luke 11:5-8

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him what he needs."

τίς ἐξ ὑμῶν ἔξει

Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.'

- Which one of you?
- Can you imagine that?
- Duh~!

Sirach 6: 14-17

- A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter: he that has found one has found a treasure. There is nothing so precious as a faithful friend, and no scales can measure his excellence. A faithful friend is an elixir of life; and those who fear the Lord will find him. Whoever fears the Lord directs his friendship aright, for as he is, so is his neighbor also.

Proverbs 3: 28-29

Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come again, tomorrow I will give it" -- when you have it with you. Do not plan evil against your neighbor who dwells trustingly beside you.

ἀναίδειαν

I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him what he needs."

- 1) in a negative sense, as insensitivity to what is proper shamelessness, boldness, insolence (possibly LU 11.8); (2) in a positive sense persistence, tenacious insistence without regard to time, place, or person (possibly LU 11.8)

## Honor

- Claim of status
- Power, sexual status, sacred
- Social group acknowledgment

## Shame

- Opposite of honor/ lose honor
- Be humiliated, disgraced
- Act shamefully

## Where is the focus?

- Oral tradition
  - Where ○ where have the pronouns gone?
- Troublesome persistence of knocker?
- Shamelessness of the one in bed?

## Troublesome Knocker?

- What does this say about prayer?
- What about unanswered prayer?
- Does prayer "work"?

## One in Bed?

- Sacred duty of hospitality DEMANDS a response
- Served not out of honor or friendship
  - He will be dishonored if villagers hear he didn't help

## One in Bed?

- What does this say about the kingdom of God?
- What does this say about God?



John Everett Millais



Illustrator of 'Vie de Jésus Mafa'

## What now?

- What changes for you if God is an abundant giver of what you need?
- What changes if God upsets the status quo while giving?