

“Which of You Shall Have A Friend?”

Luke 11:1-8 [Question of True Friendship]

This is a parable Jesus taught about prayer in answer to the disciples request in verse 1. We need to be taught to pray, because prayer isn't natural. It is a supernatural act.

The disciples are to be commended for wanting to learn more about prayer. Not many are interested in learning how to pray. Most people want to know how to make more money... how to be a success in their business... or how to make home improvements. But how many are really interested in learning how to improve their prayer life? Unfortunately, improving the spiritual areas in our lives is a low priority with most people.

➡ The parable involves three “friends:”

1. The **troubled** friend who lacks bread.
2. The **tired** friend who is asked for bread.
3. The **traveling** friend who is hungry for bread.

I. The PRECIOUSNESS of a friend.

- A. The RARITY of such a friend. A true friend is a rare thing. If you have more than one true friend in your life time, you are truly blessed.
 1. I know I have at least one true friend on earth—my wife. We share all the best that can come of a true friendship. Barb's companionship during the past 48 years has helped to make me a better person.
 2. As Proverbs 27:17 says, *“Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.”* That is the kind of friend you need—One who will improve, or sharpen, your life, **not** one who will dull your potential or make you worse.
- B. The RANKING of friendships.
 1. I am blessed with other friends also. Friendships occur on different levels. Proverbs 18:24 says, *A man that hath friends [plural] must show himself friendly: and there is a friend*

[singular] *that sticketh closer than a brother.*” You may have several friends, but do you have that one friend that will stick close no matter what time of day it is or what he is asking for?

2. This is the kind of friend Jesus is referring to in this parable—Jesus asks if we have such a friend to whom we may go at an inconvenient time and ask for something as insignificant as some bread? While it is true that bread is essential to life (Mt. 4:4), it isn’t a matter of life or death at midnight. It could be supplied to the traveling friend in the morning.

II. The PROVING of a friend.

A. The TEST of a friend. An useless aggravation will TEST a friendship and push it to its limits.

1. The parable illustrates the value of a true friendship has no limitations. A true friendship is two friends who value the same things and considers them equally important—Providing some bread at an awkward hour of the night.

One mother said, “My kids wanted to know what it’s like to be a mom. So I woke them up at midnight to tell them my sock came off.” That is similar to the scenario in the parable of what it’s like to be woke up at midnight by a friend.

2. Our friendships are tested when a “friend” considers something important that we do not think is important. One friend in the parable had a problem of no bread; the other did not consider it to be important enough to leave the comfort of his bed to supply.

B. The TRUE friend. When a friendship is put to that kind of test it proves a true friend from a casual friend.

1. Jesus proves over and over to be a true friend who will rise any hour of the day to meet our need. He is not a God of the day time only, but He is also God of the darkest night.

2. What a friend we have in Jesus! But, the bigger question is— **What kind of friend does Jesus have *IN YOU*?**
 - a) If you're truly His friend, what is important to Him, will be important to you. His concern will be your concern.
 - b) While He will answer your call anytime of the day— Will you answer when He calls you an inconvenient time to serve Him? Or, is His request too much trouble for you to leave your comfort zone to answer?
 - c) When Jesus comes knocking on your door, does He find a “Do Not Disturb” sign hanging on your heart?

III. The PLEADING of a friend.

- A. The IDENTITY of the friends. **The friend in the bed is NOT JESUS—it is US!**
 1. Most preachers interpret this parable as Jesus being the one in bed who is reluctant and must be “hounded” before He’ll meet our need. If we keep pounding at His door and pleading long and loud enough, He will finally get out of bed and give us what we ask for.
 2. What a sorry example of a friend (v. 8)! That is not the friend we have in Jesus.
- B. The IMPORTUNITY of the friend.
 1. It is Jesus who knocks at **our door** at an inconvenient time calling us to give the Bread of Life to some lost soul.
 2. We are ones who turn Him away saying, *“Trouble me not, the door is now shut, and ... I cannot rise and give thee.”* It is only because Jesus continues knocking that we finally surrender to serve Him.
 3. When our friendship with Jesus is mutual (we have the same values and agree on what is important), when we pray, He responds—*“And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.”* Jesus

will do His part in the friendship—The question is: Will we do our part???

SUMMATION: Friend or servant? If we were servants of Christ, we would HAVE to respond to His every wish. As a servant, you would have no choice but to obey. If this were a servant in bed at midnight and His master said, “I need some bread,” that servant would rise from the comfort of his bed and provide whatever his master asked for.

But, this was not a servant in the parable—It was his so-called friend! Jesus said in John 15:15, “*I call you not servants... but I have called you FRIENDS.*” Because he was a friend, he had a choice—He could stay in bed or get up and help. Sadly, he chose to stay where he was warm and comfortable... like so many of us.

Jesus is looking for a friend that sticks closer than a brother no matter what hour of the day it is, and no matter how insignificant His request may seem.

He is looking for one upon whom He can depend... One who feels the same importance that He feels at any given moment.

Jesus, as your friend, will be there for your every need. Will you be there for Him? Are you that friend who will rise to serve Jesus at midnight? Or must He stand at your door and continue knocking as you make excuses why it is too much trouble for you to rise and answer His call.

He asks us, “**Who has such a friend?**” “**Who will be such a friend?**” We can sing, “What A Friend we Have in Jesus!” But, what kind of friend does Jesus have *IN YOU?*