

# A Friend at Midnight

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(as recorded by member of the congregation)

Story of Annoying Postal worker.

- Family unwell.
- Tarlia had thrown up on bed (think exorcist and it had nothing on family scene)
- 3am Back to sleep
- 6am Rang boss told him not coming in.
- In morning postal worker knocked.
- And knocked and knocked
- Unwelcome disturbance
- Answered door reluctantly.
- Package delivery

**Luke 11:1-13** *One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." 2 He said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, in heaven hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 3 Give us each day our daily bread. 4 Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation. but deliver us from the evil one"*

*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!"*

(things underlined and in italics found in Matthew)

- All must be read in context.
- Jesus is talking about prayer.
- Jesus addressed God as Father (on cross Jesus cried out Abba Father)
- Close relationship
- Communion built on prayer
- Computer code “cheat code” (reminisce - his dad changed computer code in order to win)
- Prayer can be likened to a Cheat code – “Thy will be done.” Either His will or ours will be done
- Prayer is our artillery. Lives will change with prayer. No battle has ever been won without artillery. Need spiritual answers for spiritual prayer.

### Luke 11:1-4 Comparison or Contrast

| Parable                 | Comparison                                  | Contrast                                                   |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Home Owner              | God                                         | Human                                                      |
| Friend                  | Recipient                                   | Recipient                                                  |
| Locked door/Kids in bed | God not answering                           | Human ignoring                                             |
| Shameless Audacity      | Persistent begging leading to God giving in | Persistent begging leading to human giving in to get peace |

- Ockemsraiser (?) A problem-solving principle that suggests, when faced with competing explanations for the same phenomenon, the simplest one—the one requiring the fewest assumptions or entities—is more likely to be correct
- Either we can convince the creator of the universe to change his mind or unlike humans with selfish desires God delights in giving to His children!

## Ask

**Phil 4:6** *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.* **Luke 11:11-13a** *“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*

NEED a Car story:

- you need a car
- a friend has a beat-up old dump of a car, but he won't give you that one
- he goes and buys you a new car but he is rich, so he gets you a nice car,
- now when people see you and they ask where did you get that car and you say my friend got it for me
- they all comment on how good your friend is and both them and you praise him for his generosity
- and if they don't know him then they want to know him.

Recent Story of sound system

- To cost \$11k
- got it for \$5k
- got better than what we ordered due to delays.

**God blessed abundantly and doesn't want us to just get by, he wants to bless us abundantly.**

C.S.Lewis – When you pray things seem to co-incidentally happen but if you had not prayed they would have co-incidentally not happened.

Matt at work – under truck and could not get part in. Prayed and part went in.

Learning guitar – get better with practice.

- Skill of prayer the same.
- He wants to give us good things.
- Prayer connects us with our father in heaven!

**Jms 1:17** *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*

**Ps 34:10** *The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.*

**Ps 84:11** *For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.*

**Eph 3:14-21** *For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may*

*dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

I am this big but God way bigger

(close eyes and imagine – he can do immeasurably more)

## Seek

- Do we stop to listen?
- Do we accept the answer that is given?
- No is an answer!
  - Prayer isn't about getting what I want or having it my way.
  - Prayer is communicating with God but Are we listening.
  - When we don't get the answer we want do we accept it? (Jesus didn't heal everyone. – man at gate Beautiful. Jesus passed regularly. Peter & John used to heal)
  - Sometimes the God of infinite knowledge and wisdom knows better than even me.

## Party

- come across talker who never listens.
- We do a lot of asking, pleading, begging
- Do we listen but communication is 2 way street
- “Be still and know I am God”

## Matts story

- Had hot dogs at night
- Daughter not up next day
- Matt off to work
- 10am ambulance called as daughter not moving
- At hospital daughter on bed being worked on by doctors.
- Stabilized
- Matt in chapel at night praying
- Asked God not to take her but listening
- In instant saw while life

- Heard Him say “I’ve got this”
- OK Matt said “just make it gentle on her.”
- “Thy will be done”

## Knock

- God always wants the best for us.
- Sometimes what we want is not what we need. (Hard to see kids suffer but sometimes what going through is better than eternal suffering)
- It is hard for us to see the forest because of the trees
- but he can see it all and sometimes we need to just have faith that he knows.
- Gods got this you don’t need to worry or fear.
- God does not want you to suffer eternally.

**1 Pe5:6&7, 10-11** *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Matt 6:34** *Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

## Conclusion

- Ask, seek knock
- Pray continually
- The more you do it the better you get
- Moral compass will line up with His will
- Pray “Thy will be done” and will be done
- Don’t know what God has for us
- Bible gives light
- Whatever happens we know the book tells us it ends well