

THE FRIEND AT MIDNIGHT

◆ INTRODUCTION ◆

Did you ever have a surprise visit from a friend? If so, maybe you were happy and excited to see him. But what would it be like if that same friend showed up at midnight and woke you up? Then how would you feel? Probably not too excited. Here Jesus tells the story of an unexpected visitor – a friend who comes to the person's house at midnight and then knocks on the door asking for bread.

◆ BIBLE READING: LUKE 11:5-13 ◆

5 And Jesus said to his disciples, "Suppose one of you should go to a friend's house at midnight and say, "Friend, let me borrow three loaves of



bread. **6** A friend of mine who is on a trip has just come to my house, and I don't have any food for him! **7** And suppose your friend should answer from inside, "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** Well, what then? I tell you that even if he will not get up and give you the bread



because you are his friend, yet he will get up and give you everything you need because you are not ashamed to keep on asking. **9** And so I say to you: Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. **10** For those who ask will receive, and those who seek will find, and the door will be opened to anyone who knocks. **11** Would any of you who are fathers give your son a snake when he asks for fish? **12** Or would you give him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? **13** As bad as you are, you know how to give good things to your children. How much more, then, will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

◆ VOCABULARY ◆

(to) show up (v phr) – to make oneself seen at a certain location; often without telling anyone ahead of time

unexpected (adj) – not expected, surprising

(to) knock (v) – to hit a door, window or something several times to get another person's attention

(to) suppose (v) – to imagine or think of a possible situation

(to) bother (v) – to disturb, irritate or trouble another person

ashamed (adj) – feeling embarrassed or guilty because of something one has done, or because of their appearance

(to) seek (v) – to look for something; to try and find something

(to) keep alert (v phr) – to be careful, looking out for any possible problems or dangers

persistence (n) – the quality of not giving up; holding firmly to one's purpose

◆ QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE READING ◆

1. What does the friend ask for? Why?

2. What does the man in the house say? Why?

3. Why does he finally give bread to his friend?

4. What will we get if we ask God?

◆ KEY VERSE: EPHESIANS 6:18 ◆

“Do all this in prayer, asking for God’s help. Pray on every occasion, as the Spirit leads. For this reason keep alert and never give up; pray always for all God’s people.”

◆ ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ◆

1. When can we pray?

2. Who or what can lead us when we pray?

3. When do we stop or give up praying?

◆ APPLYING THE VOCABULARY TO YOUR LIFE ◆

Answer the questions using the **bolded** vocabulary words.

Example: When do you **knock** on a door?

Answer: I **knock** on a door when I want someone to open it.



1. What is something that **bothers** you?

2. What makes you feel **ashamed**?

3. What is the best gift you ever **received**?

4. What are you **seeking** in your life?

5. When do you need to **keep alert**?

◆ CONCLUSION ◆

In this parable, Jesus teaches us that we should be persistent in prayer. We should not give up. However, God is not like the friend who didn't want to be bothered. We can depend on him, because he loves and cares about us. He tells us to ask him and he will give to us. He is more than a friend. He is our Father. He can be trusted completely. In prayer, we learn to know this loving Father, and as his children, we learn the importance of following him.

FOR FURTHER STUDY, SEE LUKE 18:1-8

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