

Bible Study 01-22-2025

Rev. Debbie Sexton

Luke 11:5-13 KJV

"A Confident Expectation"

This lesson extends from Jesus responding to His disciples' request on how they should pray. He offered, "the model prayer". (Also in **Matthew 6:9-13**)

There He discourages and criticizes meaninglessly and repetitive prayers. Jesus stressed that such repetition is unnecessary since God is fully aware of our every need before we ask. (**Matthew 6:7-8**)

Our study is a continuation of inviting God into every intimate detail and concern of our lives. This is a gentle reminder for every hearer and doer of the Word of God, "Don't leave God out."

5 And He (Jesus) said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto Him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;

A friend shows up unannounced at a friend's door in the middle of the night. Keep in mind in the first century there were no telephone, e-mail, or text messaging.

6 For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?

The willingness of the needy neighbor to go to his friend's house to ask for food suggests that he is **confident** that there will be a **positive outcome** to his request. Hospitality is love in action, and was paramount of the culture. So the neighbor has a confident expectation that his friend will oblige.

Romans 12:12 NIV

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 "Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."

1 Peter 4:9 *"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling."*

7 NIV *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."*

The response in short, "Go away, we are asleep." Jesus taught in verses 2-4 the model prayer that we may pray to God for our needs. Now He draws a contrast between ungracious behavior and the way God acts toward us.

8 NKJV *"I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him, because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs."*

God will meet us at the point of every need. (**Philippians 4:6,19**)

Proverbs 14:31 NLT *"Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker, but helping the poor honors Him."*

9 *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.*

When the statement "Ask, and it shall be given you" is read in context, the emphasis shifts away from ourselves and toward God. The result is that we ask because we have confidence that God is able. The two statements that follow, seeking and knocking, are parallel. Only believe, God will respond.

10 *For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*

Be direct. Be specific. Ask for what you need. God is faithful to respond according to our needs.

11 *If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?*

If a little boy asks for a serving of fish, do you scare him with a live snake on his plate?

12 *Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?*

If he ask for an egg do you trick him with a spider? How does a friend respond?

13 *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children; how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*

Jesus refers to His audience, His disciples as evil to show a broad contrast between humans and God. We must treat others with honorable intentions and as you would want to be treated. The Father who conceived you in love, will He not give the Holy Spirit when you ask Him? Jesus is teaching us how true disciples understand the nature of God; He is not teaching that we can get from God all we want simply by virtue of persistence or badgering. Remember, our Heavenly Father knows what things we need before we ask Him. The lives of true disciples are focused on serving God and are confident that He will indeed supply all that we need.

Take time to reflect on how much God loves you and how good and generous He really is.

Song: *"How Awesome is Our God" by Israel & New Breed w/Yolanda Adams*

So amazing, so amazing, Your love for us is overwhelming, How awesome is our God!