

We look at the family life and the demand from life as we think of them, material things are necessary and let us look into this idea that we have before us.

First, the claims of friendship-- Here is a hospitable man and he's about to retire to rest with his household. He's had his last meal and they have consumed the stock of food which this humble home contained. When, lo, to his surprise a friend arrives after a long journey, hungry as well as weary. He quickly decides, having most probably arranged for the washing of his guest's feet, he passed out into the darkness and seeks the door of a friend and stands at that door and knocks to see if he cannot secure some food for that friend.

I suppose if we really boiled the matter down, that we probably have few friends. How many friends have you? Friends that would you would feel like calling on at midnight. That is to say, after everyone is in bed you just drop in and say here we are, we're hungry, we have no food and we've come to visit you. How many friends do you have that would welcome you in just such a visit?

Now Jesus has a way of becoming identified with the weariness of life. We look at him and many times in the face of those in distress. We can almost see him laying his hand

Introduction

There are many meanings that have been fastened to this story but every little point is important. And we want to consider this passage of Scripture in the simplest way that I know how and can possibly present it to you.

Our Lord here, is praying in a certain place in verse 1. It was probably in his customary place. The Scripture often said He withdrew into the wilderness and prayed; he went out into a mountain to pray and continued all night in prayer; he was alone in prayer, went up into a mountain to pray and as he prayed, was transfigured and here he was praying in a certain place.

The Disciples felt the need for Prayer, and they applied to him for direction and they said unto him, "Lord, teach us to pray." They coveted earnestly to be able to pray as he prayed. We see that their zeal was well directed and when he ceased inferred that they did not disturb him when he was in prayer. We know that everything is beautiful in its season and they said, "Lord, teach us to pray."

They were deeply moved for they had never heard a man pray like this man. And no wonder that when he ceased, they came with tear-filled eyes saying, "Lord, teach us to pray."

Here is a need of prayer. All men pray in the way of wishing or (earnestly desiring) We have never learned to pray, if we have not learned to speak personally to a personal God. The cry is the need of the soul of a man. We need a greater than human help. Divine power and compassion which are the counterparts of human weakness and need.

Surely Jesus (will be able) to instruct us in the way of God. His whole life was filled with the atmosphere of prayer. He constantly breathed the breath of heaven. And we see in his life, there in the garden, in his death, in his resurrection, that he who had spent whole nights in prayer had too much to do to be in a hurry to neglect this fellowship and communion with God. He teaches us to pray. This gives us insight into the poverty of our own nature.

Their request was that the Lord might teach them how to pray. For it is a hard thing to pray well and Jesus is the best teacher and the Holy Spirit will help us.

The plea of the disciples was that as John also taught his disciples. He took care to instruct his disciples in the necessary duties. John taught his disciples such prayers as were more filled up with petitions and requests. This disciple needed not to have urged John's example. Christ was more than ready to teach than ever John the Baptist.

Christ gave them direction. Much the same as he had given them in the Sermon on the Mount. His instruction here was full and he taught them how to pray. How to pray for daily bread, let us have bread today for today, and tomorrow for tomorrow. And thus he indicated they were to be in continual dependance upon him.

He said when you pray its a (condition of your heart) the matter of sonship -- our Father. Its a matter of santification hallowed be thy name. Its a matter of subjection -- thy kingdom come. Its a matter of consecration -- thy will be done. Its a matter of brotherly love -- and forgive us as we forgive every one.

There are (six petitions) here. There are three that are the fulfillment of God's purposes and three for our own needs. And the petitions for our own needs comes second and Jesus said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God." These verses of scripture might be divided up into several different ways for in verse 5 an example, in verse 6 and 8 we are enjoined by a parable, verse 9 we're enjoined by direct command to pray, in verse 10 we're enjoined by the promise of reward, and in verse 11 we're enjoined by the less to the greater.

The teaching of the (parable) is that of an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.

He is a patient God and although his children go along for years without calling on his name, when they do seek him in trouble and call upon him, he reaches down the helping hand and delivers them.

✓ Matthew 6:6, "But thou when thou prayest, enter into thy closet and when thou hast shut the door, pray to thy Father which is in secret and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Many of us have done that. We have had the experience of praying in secret and later having the answer come to us in a glorious way so that all the world will know. A mother may pray for a boy. He never knows that she is praying but one day she sees him confess Christ; And grow into a strong Christian man. There is a secret in her heart because she knows that God is keeping his promise. "I have prayed for certain people to be saved, they never knew that I was praying, but God heard the prayer."

✓ Matthew 18:19, "Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven." I believe this is God's most wonderful promise in prayer.

✓ Matthew 21:22, "And all things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." He is here saying that we are to have faith in our prayers and if we believe our prayer is vain, it will be so. An old woman read this promise

on one who is in need. And thus here is a need that Jesus points out in this parable. This friend has arrived, everyone is in bed, but he comes on the claim of friendship.

Three kinds: 1. Nearly friend. 2. Praying friend. 3. Mighty friend.

✓ Second the empty pantry. Now this man whose friend arrived was hungry and he had a standard of entertainment. Most women have a high standard for social entertainment. They magnify things when they think about entertaining other people. You have heard the statement, We have nothing to wear, or We have nothing to eat. Well it is just representative as to how they think about social entertainment.

But when a man walks into the pantry as this man did, and looks a round on the shelves and says, It is empty, you may be assured that there is nothing there. For a man does not look at things as a woman.

Now this man was not as sounding brass. He had love for his friend and he was not particularly embarrassed because he needed help. And prayer is an expression of our deepest Had no Hotels or Public Halls - Entertainment for Friends needs.

✓ Third, the midnight journey. Reason for Journey - The friend arrived and this man, host, went out on a midnight journey. He made this journey in spite of the darkness about him, which causes us

to think about prayer and the wonderful hymn, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

The deep experiences of prayer, perhaps, sometimes are in the darkness. Now this man goes out, there were no street lights to light his way, and it was at the midnight hour, when he went out on this journey. Many times we have to go out on a midnight journey in prayer when things look pretty dark and dim, we often kneel in prayer. As I said in the beginning, every point in this story has some glorious truth if we might but discover it. And I think that we do not do an injustice by bringing out his ideas. For many people in the depths of the midnight hour have gone on the journey of prayer.

Fourth, the closed door. Now the door was shut, was closed ~~and~~ on which he was knocking. And he was knocking upon this door that had already been locked and many of us would have not been so occupied that we'd gone on. But this points out another factor in prayer. That we are not to be so occupied and not so busy but what we can pray.

Here is another things that is suggested. God welcomes the last minute prayer. He welcomes the last minute prayer. Thus this man knocks on this door through his prayer and persistence. God always answers prayer. And God keeps his word about it. We are instructed to pray.

John 15:7, "If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it will be done unto you."

He means here that if we live as he wants us to do, and if we try to carry out his will in our lives, we can ask anything of him and it shall be given unto us.

John 14:14, Jesus is going away now, for several years his disciples have been able to ask him for the things they needed but now he is no longer to be present in the flesh. He said, "If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it." But someone said, It is not so for if it were so, I could ask for riches and I know that God would not give me wealth if I simply prayed for it. But if we prayed in his name we would not be foolish enough to ask for foolish things.

Jeremiah 33:3, "Call unto me and I will answer thee; shew thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not." There are many things which we believe are beyond the realm of possibility. But God is telling us here that even the seemingly impossible things can be done. God gives us wisdom to do difficult tasks.

Psalms 50:15, "Call upon me in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee; and thou shalt glorify me." We ought not to wait until we are in trouble to call upon God. Yet God is telling us here that he will answer us in the time of need.

The word importunity as we have stated means shamelessness.. It is a curious word to be used about prayer.

Well, what is it that makes a man ashamed to ask for a favor? As somebody would put it, the nerve of this man.

The lack of the sense of shame on the part of this man.

This man is now aware of his own embarrassment. The sense of need had been hidden and does not matter if the children are awakened. It does not matter if this man must have to get up but, here is the challenge, the shamelessness of prayer. In fact, he believed that this man would get up and fill his baskets will bacon and eggs and send him on his way. This was the privilege of hospitality. To come to the source of supply.

What made him not ashamed? First, either (a doubt) of his friend's ability to grant it; second, (a consciousness) that he is asking for a wrong thing; third, (a feeling) that some unworthy then himself will prevent his friend listening to him.

Now such shame is fatal to true prayer. If we doubt God's power, or if we are asking for what we know we ought not to have, or if we feel our own unworthiness, this will bar us from his bounty. How can we pray earnestly?

on prayer. She also read that mountains could be moved by faith. She prayed one night that a certain mountain would be removed out of its place away from her home. The next morning she looked out and exclaimed, "Well, it's just as I expected, the mountain is still there." This is not the attitude that we should have. Our prayer must be backed up with faith.

Isaiah 65:24, "And it shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer. And while they are yet speaking I will hear." God knows our needs before we call on him. He prepares the answer before we pray. Yes, I know that God answers prayer. He says that he will and he always keeps his promise.

Though the door was closed, this man continued to knock.

Fifth, here is a generous supply. There was a generous supply. He said friend (lend me) Lend me for (immediate) use. You know this is what we do in prayer also. It's like a fully charged battery. That of prayer is, and this man was praying for three loaves. And here was a generous supply.

This man's children were in bed. "Why, he said, "I cannot get up now." He said, "I'd just wake everybody in the household."

Now it's not much trouble to get up to answer this man's

needs.

God is not going to get up and give on our merit or our rating. And in other words, I believe God would remove all false motives. And this man answered this because of his

friendship and his love, out of his generous supply he was willing to help this man in need. *Definite Request: Miss. Chigra Prayer meeting one of churches - asking funds send young man out to mission field. Why are you folks praying general way? How much money do you need - \$500 - then I'll ask God to send \$500 - after meeting - member said we have already \$375 & the rest provided*

Sixth, the shamelessness in prayer. Let us take now the words - importunity - because that's exactly what we discover when we dig into the meaning of the word importunity. We find that this word liberally means shamelessness.

Suppose a man upon a sudden emergency goes to borrow a loaf or two of bread from a neighbor at an unreasonable and unreasonable time of night, not for himself but for his friend. Well, his neighbor would be slow to accomodate him for he has awoken him with his knocking, the door is shut and locked, the children are asleep in bed and if he would make noise, he would disturb everyone. His servants could not hear his call, but his friend continues to knock. The Bible says, he will arise and give him.

This is direction in prayer. First, we must come to God with boldness and confidence for what we need, as this man goes to his neighbor or friend's house that he has a need.

Second, we must come for bread to our heavenly father.

Third, we must pray for others as well as for ourselves. This man did not come for bread for himself but for his friends. Thus we must include other people in our prayers.

Fourth, we must not come in a careless way but this man came straight to his friend. This man would not have wanted bread if his friend had not come in unexpectedly. Thus we see where God's providence sometimes may lead us into a position that will challenge us to prayer.

Here is one encouragement to pray. That this man had a need and he had to ask for that need; had to knock for it; and he had to seek the heavenly father. It means that in offering our request to God for things that aren't needful.

Here is the simplicity of prayer. Ask and it shall be given you. This is the way a child does. This interprets his cry. And the more we are conformed to the image of Christ the nearer we are to the presence of our God.

The child asks; What did he ask for: bread? Will you give him a serpent? In your crisis will you deny him? If earthly parents be willing to lay out for the education of their children to whom they design to leave their estates, much more will your heavenly father give the spirit to those that have an inheritance with him.

We ought to have the great conviction that God is able to do what we desire. And what we desire is in accordance with his will; and that our very unworthiness should be claimed in the mercy of Christ. Here is a sense of shamelessness in persistency, a sense that will not stop us from praying unto God.

Collidge shortly before his death, said Oh no, my dear, it is to pray; to pray as God would have us. This is what at times makes me turn cold to my soul. Believe me, to pray with all your heart and strength, with the reason and will, to believe vividly that God would listen to your voice through Christ, and verily do the things he please thereupon. This is the last, the greatest achievement of the Christians warfare on eath. Teach us to pray, O Lord." And the biographer adds, That Collidge burst into a flood of tears and begged him to pray for him. O what a sight was that, he said.

Thus from this parable we have a truth, several truths, met with people difficult situations - not ashamed - pray for us that ought to quicken us in the matter of prayer.

Abraham → for lot in Sodom - 10 min - definite -
Elijah → Mt. Carmel - for fire - Definite -
Devil → 3 times Day -
Paul → vision → are you ashamed to ask God for
/ Ask God forgive your sin? met your need tonight?
" " give fire to your spiritual need?

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