

Ask, Seek, Knock

Introduction

If you have your bible...

Review last week, ABIDE (God's Word, Prayer)

God has all authority (Holy, King)

But He is approachable (daily bread)

Today we are going to hear a parable as an explanation of what it means that our God is a good father. And Jesus uses a picture of a guy who is kind of a jerk to help us understand how God meets our needs.

Luke 11:5-13

And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; 7 and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? 8 I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. 9 And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 11 What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; 12 or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Context/Story

- Tell the story
 - A man arrives on a journey to a man's home... and He is hungry. But the host has nothing in his home to offer the traveler. Woe is me. What shall I do? How shall I feed my friend? I know what I'll do! I'll go to my neighbor's house and I'll bang on his door and I'll make my problems his problems."
 - 1st Century palestine, Food not quite as readily available as it is today. No late night taco bell, A battle for bread every day, you bake enough bread to meet the needs of that day, and the next day you do the same thing.
 - He could have chosen to tell the guy to go to sleep. It's late, he will have breakfast in the morning. "Go to sleep you will forget you are hungry" that's what we tell our kids at least...
 - **Be a poor host, or be a poor neighbor - and he decides to take what's behind door number 2.** So he goes to his neighbor. And In that day, houses were basically one, maybe two rooms, which means that when it was time for bed, you would all be sleeping in what? (one room).
 - Can you imagine? You take a mat and you roll it out on the floor, and you and the kids and the wife, are all sleeping together, **which, quite frankly is miserable**
 - **When levi was a child (Grunting)**

- **When my kids join me in bed... They always lie sideways!**
 - **They do not understand the geometry of sleeping.**
 - You get kid one, Kid two, Kid three down. you bolt the door, lay down next to your wife. Nobody is getting up without causing a commotion.
- Midnight - Some of us love midnight... Not so in a world with no electricity.
- Everything is quiet, until all of a sudden a knock comes at the door and wakes up the whole family.
- The man on the other side of the door starts with, "Friend"
 - Which is a good thing to start with when you are waking someone else up at midnight to ask for a piece of bread. Friendship is walking a tight line here.
 - It's one thing to wake up dad, its a whole other thing to wake up the two year old that you spent an hour trying to get down to sleep
 - This guy is probably pretty grumpy
- Impudent - Bold, Shameless
- Usually in parables, someone in the parable is me, and someone in the parable is God. **So what can we learn? (well God is in heaven, grumpy. He doesn't want to give us anything, but if we keep banging on the door, he will eventually get up and give us what we are asking for. Great, let's go home!)**
 - Jesus is painting a picture of a guy who is just rude. He just doesnt know which social lines to cross and which to not cross. Do you know that kind of person? Do you have a friend like this? You do. You brought them, trying to fix them. Welcome, friend! Welcome.

God Gives Us What We Need

1. Explain

- a. God, our father, Sovereign, Ruler, King, Power over all things, he can do with all things whatever he pleases. AND This God, the God of the universe, is approachable. He has invited us to come to Him with our EVERY NEED.
 - i. Not just some needs, not just the important needs, But with every need.
- b. "Hey I know you are busy running the universe and all... and you have got a lot of things you are looking at... but I have some things that are going on in my life right now that i could really use you giving some attention to.
 - i. Talk about bold. Talk about shameless!. It almost seems ludicrous right now.
 - ii. God, our father delights in revealing Himself to those who are BOLD enough to BOTHER Him.
 - iii. I hesitate to use that word "bother" But...
 1. Heavy hearted wife "i don't want to bother you"
 2. I delight in being bothered by my wife.
 - a. A sign of unhealth if she is going somewhere else with that
 3. So it is with God.
- c. How we should approach God.

- i. Jesus is not saying to leave God alone unless it is really really important. He is saying that God delights in us coming to Him with our struggles, no matter how big or small!
 - 1. Cancers and Colds, Mustard seeds and Mountains.
- 2. Prove
 - a. Matthew 6:26-30 - Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? 28 And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?
 - b. Nehemiah 6:9 - For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done." But now, O God, strengthen my hands.
- 3. Apply
 - a. Ask
 - i. First things first (don't create a plan first, don't freak out first) Pray First
 - b. Seek
 - i. You can't just say, "Well, I prayed about it, and now I'm going to sit here and do nothing." You have got to get up and go do something. You got to seek, you got to work, you got to pursue answers to your request.
 - c. Knock
 - i. And if that doesn't work and it still hasn't been answered, you just keep banging on the door. You keep knocking.
 - d. Examples
 - i. Job - pray, look, keep trying
 - ii. Wife - pray, look, keep trying "Hey how's it going, my names so and so, look, my shirt has buttons," back to my last point, "I have a Job"
 - e. My daughter Kyla loves unicorns - My little pony (pigacorn)
 - i. But compare that to some guy at the supermarket who comes up and asks for a my little pony unicorn.

God Only Gives Us Good

- 1. Explain
 - a. "Ask anything In my name... and it will be given to you."
 - i. What about the things we don't receive?
 - b. There is a huge difference between what we think is good, and what is actually good.
 - i. Man's Good - Money, Power, Beauty, Idols, Comfort, Convenience, Status
 - ii. God's Good - Holiness, Maturity, Closeness to God, Wisdom, Good Works. Selflessness
 - c. Even a good parent, fails to do what is good for their children sometimes.

- i. But God is a father in heaven who is ALL GOOD. and He only gives good.
 - ii. **So if God is so good why does evil exist?**
 1. God cannot be both all powerful AND all good in order for evil to exist.
 2. If He had a good enough reason to, it is possible for an all-powerful and all-wise God to allow the evil in the world to exist
 3. Timothy Keller - Everything sad is going to come untrue and it will somehow be greater for having once been broken and lost.
2. Prove
- a. Psalm 119:68 - You are good and You do good; teach me your statutes
 - b. Children getting shots
3. Apply
- a. Trust in Him
 - i. Some of you are not 100% convinced He is good. And so you go and ask Him for something, but you are fearful of what He might give.
 1. I am asking for fish and eggs, and he is giving me snakes and scorpions. So you don't bring anything to God...
 - b. How do we know that God is good?
 - i. **Jesus was sent on our behalf**
 1. Our biggest problem is sin. He didn't have to save, he didn't have to adopt, he didn't have to restore, he didn't have to give eternal life.
 2. Gospel
 - ii. **We have God's revealed word**
 - iii. **Reflecting on God's provision for us**
 1. Food, Water, clothes, money, home, families, air, health, intelligence, beauty, (none of these are rights of ours)
 2. Many circumstances that have brought pain I have seen God redeem and turn to good
 - iv. **Because even those situations that I have not seen turned to good, God's track record makes me believe he ultimately will do so**
 1. Eternity awaits
 - c. Praise Him for what He is doing, even if it is difficult

The Holy Spirit is the Ultimate gift (Conclusion)

- Matthew's account in chapter 6 = Good gifts, Luke's account in Chapter 11 = Holy Spirit
 - "Well... I kind of like the good gifts version more.... What If I wasn't asking for the Holy Spirit?"
- Here is the beauty of the Holy Spirit
 - We are asking for wisdom.... He gives us the spirit of wisdom
 - We are asking for counsel... He gives us the Counselor
 - We are asking for Comfort... we receive the comforter

- We are asking for healing, or peace, strength, we are not just getting the gift, we are getting the giver of the gift!
- God loves us so much that he has given Himself to us!

Communion

Here at Celebration Church we practice an open table for The Lord's supper. What that means.

- Christian - feel free to join us even if this is not your home church
- For the non-Christian... this is not for you. We ask that you let the plate pass you by, and urge you to take Christ instead.

This morning as we come to the table, we look back to the cross. the place where our Savior's body was broken for our sins.

Dave Bowman - Prayer for the bread

Take a few moments now in prayer remembering the cross and what was done for you there

the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me. TAKE AND EAT

Just as we looked back with the bread, we look forward with the cup, longing for the day when Jesus comes again. Christ said, "I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." we look forward to that day.

Larry Walker - prayer for the cup

Pass out the cup Take a few moments now in prayer looking forward to the day when we can share in the cup with our lord.

In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. TAKE AND DRINK

PRAY



LUKE 11:5-13 Ask, Seek, Knock

INTRODUCTION Jesus continues to teach the disciples how to pray. Last week He taught them by giving them the Lord's Prayer as an example. This week, Jesus teaches that God responds to your prayers with the love of a Father.

DISCUSSION

- What is the best gift you have ever received?

EXPLANATION

- What does the parable of the loaves teach us about persistence in prayer?
- How does Jesus portray the Father in his response to our prayers? And How does the Father's inclination differ from the sleeping neighbor?
- In what ways has the Holy Spirit been the greatest gift from God in your life?

APPLICATION

- What are we praying for today?
- How are those things aligned with the purposes of God?
- Consider taking some intentional time praying as a group for individual needs, for God's will, and for Celebration Church

THE 5 W's (broken up into gendered groups)

- Word (How have you gotten into the word this week?)
- Wife/Husband/Family (How are you doing with your spouse/family?)
- Wellness (What are you doing to take care of yourself?)
- Work (How are you handling the work God has given you?)
- Witness (Who have you witnessed to, or prayed for this week?)