

“Things Accomplished Among Us” (Luke 1:1)

Selected Reflections From Luke

The Late-Night Neighbor

Luke 11:5-12

Thank You For Listening, now here is the scene before we read the text in Luke 11.

It is late at night, you are already in bed, the kids are asleep, and a friend knocks on your door. When you answer, you hear a request to borrow food. Seems the friend had unexpected guests. You do not comply, just return to bed. Your friend knocks again and asks again, seeking food. Rather than keep answering the door, you comply with the requests. You are not happy about this, just anxious send the friend away and go back to bed.

Listen now to Luke 11:5-12.

⁵And 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, ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him';⁷and 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?' ⁸I 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. ⁹And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹²or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?"

The point of this story along with the reference to parental generosity is – **If men respond to persistent requests, “how much more” will the Heavenly Father.**

Think of this as an argument from the lesser to the greater. And add this dimension – humans are irritated by persistence. Not God. God says, “ask, and it will be given to you,” seek and find. Later in Luke, another story is told to make certain we understand that prayer ought to be continued, persisted in. In Luke 18, the Lord says we “ought always to pray and not lose heart.” Keep praying. You are not praying to a sleepy neighbor. You are praying to a gracious God who wants to hear from you and who will answer according to His perfect will.

More about this in future Podcasts.

-Warren E. Berkley