

WHAT KIND OF FRIEND ARE YOU? LUKE 11:5-8



Life Lessons from the Parables of Jesus

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Morning Star Church Bible Study

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LIFE LESSONS ON:

- FRIENDSHIP
- AUDACITY
- PRAYER
- SERVANT LEADERSHIP



LUKE 11:5-8

⁵ Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶ a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ ⁷ 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.’ ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.



THE FRIENDS

- Friend is a significant word in this parable, appearing four times. All three of the parable's principal characters are called "friend".
- There is the friend that is journeying and needs the bread
- There is the hosting friend to whom the journeying friend stops by his house, thus this friend has no bread and goes to his neighbor's house to seek the bread.
- There is the friend who is asleep and awakened and tells the person who is knocking at midnight to go away



WHAT DO THESE 3 VERSIONS OF FRIENDS REPRESENT?

1. The journeying friend-serves as a symbol of each of us. We are journeying through this life and mortality. At odd times we seek for bread or subsistence to supply our bodies with nourishment. We also seek for spiritual bread, the sort that enlivens our inner being. We also seek for the bread of salvation that gives us eternal life – Jesus Christ is our bread of life and everlasting life.



THE HOSTING FRIEND

The friend who hosts the midnight visitor, arises at a late hour and leaves his own home in order to borrow bread for his midnight guest. While standing outside the door of his neighbor/friend, he persists until his friend arises and gives him the three loaves. Then he returns home to share with the midnight visitor. This friend does all this without complaint protest, or grumbling. [AKA- ride or die kind of friend]



THE HOUSEHOLDER

The householder who is in bed when he hears the knock at midnight, mildly protests at being inconvenienced. In the end, he does arise and give to his friend according to his request.

This is the kind of friend that gives you the business- yet still helps you out!



CONSIDER THESE FRIENDS

LUKE 5:17-26

¹⁷ One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. ¹⁸ Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. ¹⁹ When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

²⁰ When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."



LUKE 5 :17-26 CONT.

²¹ The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

²² Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? ²⁴ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” ²⁵ Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. ²⁶ Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, “We have seen remarkable things today.”



HOWARD THURMAN STATES:

“...We need to put pressure on ourselves to become totally exposed to God, because it is our responsibility to ensure that our primary commitment, relationship, and loyalty are to God in everything we do in our daily lives. Our prayers then, become the ‘creative synthesis’ and expression of everything else we do at all times. Ultimately we have to trust God, in God’s infinite wisdom, will take action one way or another.”



LIFE LESSONS: ON FRIENDSHIP

1. As I reflect on my life, what kind of friend have I been to those I call friend?
2. What kind of friends do I have?
3. Do I share my faith?
4. Do I pray with and/or for my friends?
5. Would I raise the roof for my friends?
6. Would I get up at midnight for my friend? Would I open the door at midnight for my friend?



LIFE LESSONS ON PRAYER

1. Do I have a consistent prayer life?
2. Do I pray just in good times?
3. Do I pray when my back is against the wall?
4. Do I pray for my friends?
5. Do I pray for family?
6. Do I pray to Bless my enemies?
7. Is my prayer time just a to do list for what I want God to do or to provide for me in my life?
8. Is my prayer time full of love and gratitude and worship to God?
9. Do I do all the talking? Or do I make time for listening?
10. Am I fully transparent before God?



SHAMELESS AUDACITY

- noun, plural au·dac·i·ties.

boldness or daring, especially with confident or arrogant disregard for personal safety, conventional thought, or other restrictions.

effrontery or insolence; **shameless** boldness:

His questioner's **audacity** shocked the lecturer.



LIFE LESSONS ON SERVANT LEADERSHIP

- Be a servant to all...
- Serve by example
- Serve in love
- Serve without expectation of accolades or rewards
- Serve with integrity
- Serve by living out loud without saying a word that Yes, I am a disciple of Christ...



LIFE LESSONS ON SHAMELESS AUDACITY

- The very fact I am yet alive – gives me shameless audacity of faith in God.
- God's abundant grace in my life, by saving my soul through Jesus Christ..
- Putting my faith in action.....
- Standing firm in my faith in Christ despite the culture, the world, the enemies
- Standing firm on the word of God....
- Praying and believing that God not only hears my prayers, but God answers my prayers.....and accepting both the yeas, nays, and not yet....



A KNOCK AT MIDNIGHT



REFERENCES

- The Holy Bible – NIV
- Understanding the Parables of Jesus Christ, Jay Parry and Donald Parry
- Sermons on the Parables, Howard Thurman
- Uzitone's YouTube clip of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's sermon: A knock at Midnight
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wiamzazei6k&t=2s>

