

Jesus Is the One Who Delivers the Desperate

Luke 11:5-8

In the first four verses of Luke 11, Jesus teaches His disciples how to pray. The prayer here is different than the Lord's Prayer (some call it "The Disciples' Prayer), and it ends with "lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." The parable that we read this morning must be understood in this context.

- Many faithful Christians have pleaded with God to heal a dying loved one; it's unanswered
- Many parents have prayed for the protection of their loved ones, only for tragedy to strike
- All of us have prayed, like Paul, for relief from some physical problem, only to carry it on.

But there is truly hope for that person *who is desperate about being delivered from temptation and evil.*

Principle: Christ delivers you from the evil which destroys you when you are desperate for deliverance.

"Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and from inside he answers and says, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs."

I. The *moment* the knocking begins speaks of a desperate person – "the midnight hour."

Have you ever noticed how God's people are desperate and delivered at midnight in the Bible? It was at midnight that God passed through Egypt, killing the Egyptians, rescuing Israel (Ex. 11:4) It was at midnight that Samson (Jud. 16:3) took the gates of the city of Gaza and carried them away. It was at midnight that Ruth came into the threshing floor and laid herself at Boaz's feet (Ruth 3:8). Elihu said to Job's friends, "the mighty shall be taken away without hand" at midnight (Job 34:20). It was at midnight that the God shook the earth and broke open the prison doors (Acts 16:25). It was at midnight that Paul crossed stormy sea and drew near to land for safety (Acts 27:27). The Bible says, "At the midnight hour, "The Bridegroom comes; go out to meet him" (Matt. 25:6)

II. The *message* of the one knocking speaks of a desperate person – "I have nothing."

There will never be deliverance from evil and temptations around us until we say, "I have nothing." "But we have this treasure in *earthen vessels*, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves" (II Cor. 4:7). "We are not adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God (II Cor. 3:5). God delivers the empty person.

III. The *motive* of the one knocking speaks of a desperate person – "a friend has come to me."

There comes a time in every desperate person where "others become more important than me." This is what the Bible calls humility and it's the way you can know that Jesus is responding to you. "Do nothing from conceit. In humility count others more significant than yourselves" (Phil. 2:3).

IV. The *manner* of the one knocking speaks of a desperate person – "because of his persistence."

The King James translates persistence as "importunity." The word actually means "shamelessness." "What shamelessness!" the disturbed neighbors cried out. "What shamelessness!" the late passers-by said. "Hold your peace," they said, "and let honest men's doors alone at this time of night." "Never mind," says our Lord on the other hand. "Never mind them. They have bread enough at home. It is easy for them to cry shame to a starving man. Never mind them. **Knock on. Knock on.**

Your only hope to kick addiction and put to rest evil is to desperately knock on God's door of mercy.