

The Parable of the Friend at Midnight

Luke 11:5-8

1. Relate the parable briefly.
2. What is the connection between this parable and the words that go before?
3. Trench says that this parable “rests on a familiar incident of common life.” What is that incident?
4. How is the neighbor’s character when temporarily awakened like that of the unjust judge of Luke 18?
5. Was it a convenient time when the neighbor was awakened?
6. What was it the host wanted to borrow and what was the imperative need that occasioned it?

7. Why would someone be traveling at that hour?

8. Is the problem of the neighbor in answering the request, giving the bread, or some other reason?

9. Is the neighbor a true friend? Give a reason for your yes or no answer.

10. What is the reason that the neighbor arises and gives what is needed?

11. What is the meaning of the term "importunity" (King James Version)?

12. In what way is the man's shameless persistence mitigated?

13. How many loaves were given to the friend?

14. If a parable is “something laid alongside,” can the lesson be drawn from the fact that things are a contrast rather than a likeness?

15. How is God like or unlike the man inside the house?

16. What quality of spirit is implied in the man who comes in spite of all the adverse circumstances and inconveniences to others and asks for bread?

17. From the context of the passage, what does it tell us about the lesson of this parable? In other words, what is it all about?

18. Does this teach that we must batter at God’s door until we finally compel him with weariness to give us what we want?

19. If an unwilling neighbor can finally be forced by a friend’s shameless persistence into giving what is needed, how is that like or unlike God?

20. What does Jesus' summary in verse 13 reveal about God?

21. Does the view that this parable is a contrast absolve us from being intense in prayer?

22. If we do not receive what we pray for, is it because God grudgingly refuses to give it?

23. If a father would not give his son something harmful to life when he had simply asked for something necessary, what can we say about our Heavenly Father?

24. Is the promise of God to give to "everyone that asketh" unconditional?