

## CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

### THE FRIEND AT MIDNIGHT

#### SCRIPTURE READING:

<sup>5</sup>And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; <sup>6</sup>For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? <sup>7</sup>And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. <sup>8</sup>I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth (Luke 11:5-8).

#### INTRODUCTION:

A. After Jesus had finished praying, one of His disciples asked Him “Lord, teach us to pray as John also taught His disciples” (Luke 11:1). Jesus followed up this request from His disciples with the Model Prayer (Luke 11:2-4).

#### **B. Elements of the Model Prayer**

1. In prayer, we are to address God as “Our Father” (v. 2) which is indicative of a personal relationship with God.
2. We are to pray that God’s name should be hallowed (v. 2) – holy, magnified, consecrated, and revered. Honor God’s name as holy and sacred.
  - **“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him”** (John 4:23).
3. We are to pray “Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth” (v. 2) – which indicates for God’s will to be done on earth. It involves putting down evil and the putting up of good. It is the desire for God’s will in our lives. We are to pray that God’s Kingdom will one day be set up on earth, when Jesus will rule and reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
4. We are to pray for daily provision – “Our Daily Bread” (v. 3).
5. We are to pray for forgiveness of our sins and forgiveness of those who sin against us.
  - **“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”** (1 John 1:9).
  - **“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you”** (Eph 4:32).
6. The Model Prayer ends with the pleas that we are not led into temptation and deliverance from evil (v. 4).

- **“<sup>12</sup>Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. <sup>13</sup>Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man”** (James 1:12-13).
  - God never tempts anyone to sin. However, He does allow us to experience trials and testing in life and these are designed for our good.
  - In our prayers, we are to ask God to keep us from falling into sin, even if we have the desire to do it.
  
- **“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God”** (1 Cor 10:13).
  - We should take advantage of God’s “way of escape” when tempted to sin.
  - Always be mindful of the fact that Satan is the Believer’s enemy – He is not your friend.
  - **“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour”** (1 Pet 5:8).
  - **“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it”** (John 8:44).
  - **“And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night”** (Rev 12:10).
  - “I know there is a Devil for two reasons: first, the Bible declares it; and second, I have done business with him (Billy Sunday).
  
- **Jesus followed up the Model Prayer with a parable that deals with the subject of the importance of persistence or (importunity) in praying. “Importunity” (v. 8) means persistence.**
  - This parable shows God’s willingness to hear and answer the prayers of His children. The man in this parable had a guest arrive at his home at midnight. Unfortunately, he did not have food on hand, so he went to his neighbor, knocked on the door and asked for three loaves of bread.
  - At first, the neighbor refused to rise and give the host the bread. Yet, because of the prolonged banging and shouting by the host, the neighbor finally arose and gave him what he needed. When you are praying according to God’s Word, keep on praying. Do not give up – the answer will come, according to God’s will.

## I. **SEEING THE NEED** (vv. 5-6)

### A. **A Personal Need** (v. 5)

1. Food was needed for visitors.
2. God will meet our needs “according to His riches” – Depend on God. Prayer shows our dependence on Him.
  - **“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus”** (Phil 4:19).

### B. **A Pressing Need** (v. 6)

**“I have nothing.”** As Believers, we show our love by helping those in need – friends, family, strangers, Christian agencies.

#### 1. **Showing our Love** (1 John 3:17)

“One can give without love, but one cannot love without giving” (Amy Carmichael).

#### 2. **Sharing our Love** (Luke 6:38)

Giving to others results in God giving to us in return.

#### 3. **Spiritual Love** (Prov 25:21; Rom 12:20)

We are to feed our enemy, love our enemies (Matt 5:44) and behave wisely toward unbelievers (Col 4:5-6).

#### 4. **Surrendered Love** (Luke 10:34)

Believers are to imitate the love of the Good Samaritan – help those in need regardless of race, gender, social status, political party, or educational level!

According to Cathy Herholdt, her friend attended church pregnant and unmarried. The love and support she received led her to recommit her life to Christ. Today, 20 years later, she is happily married, a mother of three and a committed Christian.

- There are people in need all around us, depending on us to help them. Are you willing to help them?

## II. **SELFISHNESS ABOUT THE NEED** (v. 7)

The friend did not want to get involved.

### A. **The Selfish Attitude** (Luke 10:30-32)

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, the priest and the Levite did not stop and help this man in need – He had been stripped of His clothing, robbed, and left half dead. The priest and the Levite looked at this man in need and passed by on the other side of the road.

### B. **The Selfish Ambition** (Luke 12:16-21)

The certain rich man (farmer) was preparing for himself – He had no thought for others nor for his soul. Jesus called him a “fool.” “Beware of Covetousness” (Luke 12:15).

- **“<sup>20</sup>If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? <sup>21</sup>And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also”** (1 John 4:20-21).
- When we love God, it is easy to love others (Matt 22:39).
- **SELFISHNESS**  
Ralph L. Woods: An ambitious farmer, unhappy about the yield of his crops, heard of a highly recommended new seed corn. He bought some and produced a crop that was so abundant his astonished neighbors asked him to sell them a portion of the new seed. But the farmer, afraid that he would lose a profitable competitive advantage, refused. The second year the new seed did not produce as good a crop, and when the third-year crop was still worse it dawned upon the farmer that his prize corn was being pollinated by the inferior grade of corn from his neighbors' fields (C.R. Gibson, Wellsprings of Wisdom).
- Always be willing to help others in need.

### III. **SHARING THE NEED** (v. 8)

Persistence will help us meet the need.

#### A. **Daily Prayer**

1. “Pray for one another” (James 5:16).
2. “Pray without ceasing (1 Thess 5:17).
3. David prayed three times daily (Ps 55:17).
4. “Daniel ... Kneeled upon his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God” (Daniel 6:10).

#### B. **Determined Prayer** (James 5:17-18)

**Elijah (Elias) – “He Prayed Again.”** He did not quit when the answer did not come – He kept praying. Do not give up on God, He will answer your prayer – Yes, No, or Not Now (Delay). Be patient and wait on God to answer your prayer.

#### C. **Dedicated Prayer** (John 15:7)

- **“<sup>4</sup>Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. <sup>5</sup>Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass”** (Ps 37:4-5).
- **The Lord Owns the Cattle on a Thousand Hills**  
In its early days, Dallas Theological Seminary was in critical need of \$10,000 to keep the work going. During a *prayer* meeting, renowned Bible teacher Harry Ironside, a lecturer at the school, *prayed*, “Lord, you own the cattle on a thousand hills. Please sell some of those cattle to help us meet this need.” Shortly after the prayer meeting, a check for \$10,000 arrived at the school, sent days earlier by a

**friend who had no idea of the urgent need or of Ironside's prayer. The man simply said the money came from the sale of some of his cattle!** (*Today in the Word, MBI, January, 1990, p. 36*).

**CONCLUSION:**

- A.** Like **the Friend at Midnight**, when we meet someone who says, "I have nothing", let's show our love as Believers by helping those in need. There are people in need all around us. Are you willing to help them?
- B.** Teach me to pray, Lord, teach me to pray; This is my heart – cry day unto day; I long to know Thy will and Thy way: Teach me to pray, Lord, teach me to pray.
- C.** "God wants us to pray, and He wants to hear our prayers – not because we are worthy, but because He is merciful" (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.).

**D. The ABC's of Salvation**

- **A**dmit That You Are A Sinner. "*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*" (Rom 3:23)
- **B**elieve On Christ. "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved*" (Acts 16:31).
- **C**onfess Your Faith. "*If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation*" (Rom 10:9-10).

**MEMORY VERSE:**

**"Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you"** (Jer 29:12).

From the Teaching Ministry of:  
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**"... the word of our God shall stand for ever"** (Isa 40:8).