



81. A Friend at Midnight

Jesus said, "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 of mine 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," Luke 11:5-8.

A parable is a story ... a picture or video in words. Parables use common things to illustrate uncommon spiritual truth. Visualize a parable in your mind. And

please, don't make it mean more than it means. A parable usually illustrates only one Biblical truth ... often identified by its context. The context of this parable is prayer. One of His disciples asked Jesus, *"Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples."* So Jesus told this parable to teach that prayer persistence is good.

Sometimes, our prayers can become too casual when prayed spontaneously in the presence of others. We may say prayers that sound good to others. But do they express the burning desires of our hearts?

Persistent prayers come from determined hearts. It is important to know that what you are praying for is in His will, 1 John 5:14. Then, keep on praying. Don't give up. Keep on asking. Keep on seeking. Keep on knocking on His door. Be persistent in prayer.