

Luke 11:8

I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.

To get more of a perspective of what's going on in today's devotional verse, let's read the entire parable Jesus is talking about here.

† **Luke 11:5-8** *And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'? I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs."*

And why was Jesus giving them this parable?

† **Luke 11:1** *Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."*

Because He was asked to teach them how to pray, then Jesus gives them an example of prayer (Which we call the Lord's Prayer, but the bible never calls it that), and after that example, then the parable we just read.

Yet a lot of people (and I have done it myself) use this example or parable as ways to pray for what they need or want. So they say, "*Jesus taught us to be persistent when we are asking for things in prayer.*" Which is partially true, but let me suggest something else I believe Jesus was teaching about prayer through this parable.

If you think about it, the persistence was not the neighbor bugging his neighbor because he needed something, but rather because someone came over and the need was for someone else and not himself. I believe that Jesus is also teaching us in this parable how we should be persistent in our prayers for others, because if you think about it, when we prayer for others it's a quick, "*Lord please help them with their need.*" Which is what, all of seven whole words prayed for someone else. But then when we get to our own needs, we don't say seven simple words, but we pour our heart out to God, maybe going on for seven minutes about our needs.

Even in Jesus' prayer example (The Lord's Prayer), it never says "I" or "me" but rather "us", "we", and "our".

† **Luke 11:3-4** *Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.* (underlined for emphasis)

So even in Jesus' teaching how on prayer, it's not to teach us how to pray for ourselves, but for others as well. Maybe you need money to pay your rent this month. Go ahead and pray for that need, but there are probably thousands who can't pay their rent this month either, so instead of praying, "*Lord please supply the money so I can pay rent this week.*"

Why not use Jesus' example and pray, "*Lord there are probably a lot of people who can't pay their rent this month. So please supply for us all the money that we need to pay our rent.*"

Jesus came as a servant helping others, but not just helping others, but by also praying for others as well.

† **Luke 22:32** *"But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."*

† **John 17:20** *"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word."*