

Study Guide for June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2002. Series: Apprentices of Jesus. Luke 11:5-13 Confidence in Prayer

1. When you ask God for something in prayer, how confident are you that He will answer your prayer? What factors effect the degree of your confidence? When are you more or less confident in prayer?

2. The Friend at Mid-night. Luke 11:5-8

“To appreciate Jesus’ teaching in this parable, we must understand the value of hospitality in Middle Eastern culture. No friend, nor for that matter anyone else in the village, would ever dream of putting off a neighbor with such silly excuses as a bolted door and sleeping children. The first duty is to provided for the late-night traveler - the reputation of the whole village is at stake. We also need to understand the meaning and referent of the word translated *boldness (or persistence)*. The word actually means *shamelessness*. It is the friend who will comply with the request “for the sake of his (own) shamelessness.” The host asks but once. Jesus hearers would grin at the thought of the grouchy *friend* wearily having to supply what was needed lest his name become mud. The disciple must remember that when he brings his needs (providing they are legitimate needs) to God, *God’s* honor is at stake if he does not answer; so he will.” (Edited by D.A. Carson, Teach Us to Pray, pg.67)

- A. For a long time I understand the *boldness* to refer to the host asking for bread. How does the above explanation (it is the neighbor’s shame) change your understanding of Jesus’ point in the parable?
- B. How does this understanding of the parable build on Jesus’ teaching from the model prayer(vs. 2-4)?

3. The Invitation and Assurance. Luke 11:9-11

- A. Fill in the blanks from vs. 9. Commit these words to memory as an aide to encourage personal prayer.

“ \_\_\_ and it will be given to you; \_\_\_\_\_ and you will find; \_\_\_\_\_ and the door will be opened to you.”

- B. Why do you think Jesus adds vs. 10? Is it simply a restatement of the invitation to prayer in vs. 9?
- C. What significance do you see in three different verbs being employed to describe prayer?
- D. Give an example of how God has honored your **persistence** in prayer in the past.

4. The Illustration. Luke 11:12-13

- A. Fill in the blanks and so make explicit the comparison Jesus is making in these verses.

Earthly fathers, who are \_\_\_\_\_ give \_\_\_\_\_ gifts when their sons ask. **HOW MUCH MORE**

Your \_\_\_\_\_ Father, who is (good) will give the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ to those who ask him!

- B. I John 5:14-15 read, “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. and if we know that he hears us—whatever ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.” What has this study taught you about having confidence in prayer?