

Jesus - Prayer stories

our year of prayer

- Lost Kaz
- Lost building
- huge changes

If you had to tell a story on prayer -what would you tell?

Luke 18:1-8 (The Message)

Jesus told them a story showing that it was necessary for them to pray consistently and never quit. He said, “There was once a judge in some city who never gave God a thought and cared nothing for people. A widow in that city kept after him: ‘My rights are being violated. Protect me!’

4-5 “He never gave her the time of day. But after this went on and on he said to himself, ‘I care nothing what God thinks, even less what people think. But because this widow won’t quit badgering me, I’d better do something and see that she gets justice—otherwise I’m going to end up beaten black-and-blue by her pounding.’ ”

6-8 Then the Master said, “Do you hear what that judge, corrupt as he is, is saying? So what makes you think God won’t step in and work justice for his chosen people, who continue to cry out for help? Won’t he stick up for them?

Luke 11:5-10 (The Message)

5-6 Then he said, “Imagine what would happen if you went to a friend in the middle of the night and said, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread. An old friend traveling through just showed up, and I don’t have a thing on hand.’

7 “The friend answers from his bed, ‘Don’t bother me. The door’s locked; my children are all down for the night; I can’t get up to give you anything.’

8 “But let me tell you, even if he won’t get up because he’s a friend, if you stand your ground, knocking and waking all the neighbors, he’ll finally get up and get you whatever you need.

9 “Here’s what I’m saying:

Ask and you’ll get;

Seek and you’ll find;

Knock and the door will open.

10-13 “Don’t bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need. This is not a cat-and-mouse, hide-and-seek game we’re in.

Breaking it down

Problem

- we give up on prayer cause we assume we have to pray for ages
- We often assume anything from God has to be earned - even in prayer
- Grace is fine to start but after that everything has to be hard work

Big people - big prayers

We have all heard of people praying all night to get something

- just makes you want to quit
- went to an all night prayer meeting once slept for 2 hours came home
- but we have learned other ways of doing that here at mosaic - maybe time to do another all nighter again in shift work?

Jesus is showing us something in these stories that should give us hope

The power of the ask

- Jesus is saying if you went to your neighbour and explained your predicament will they ignore you - NO
- He is saying if you can get past the internal censor - then you will ask and get the thing you need

How many times have you been afraid to bother someone when you had a need?

So many times I have been hopping from foot to foot needing something but afraid to ask

- they look busy
- they are going thru a hard time
- didnt want to bother you
- thought you would not be able to help
- umm you looked a bit tired

If we do that with each other - its easy to see how we can think that of God

- I cant ask for that - its selfish
- God is busy with others - they need him more

Ask boldly - the need is real

Jesus in both stories show us that driven by need these people crossed that internal line its called shameless boldness

Luke 11:8 (TNIV)

8I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

1 Timothy 2:9 (NKJV) in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing,

2:9 aidos is used to describe a posture of propriety and reverence.

- It means modesty or respect.
- But Jesus, use of the word in this parable is in its negative form, anaideia.
- this works the same way a our prefix “un” or “im”
- possible becomes im -possible
- likely becomes un -likely.

In other words Jesus is saying..

- he reason the midnight seeker gets what he needs is because of his anaideia not his reverence, not his modest sensitivity to the hour, not his caution,
- nor his respect for propriety, but his bold unashamedness
- BASICALLY to heck with being nice I NEED SOMETHING NOW

In other words when you feel the need you drop the nice and get to the bottom line fast

- This is not about persisting its about boldness
- this is not about demanding from God what you want as a spoiled kid
- BUT IT IS ABOUT but the urgent boldness of a person who is so taken with an awareness of need that they abandons normal protocol .

9 “Here’s what I’m saying:

Ask and you’ll get;

Seek and you’ll find;

Knock and the door will open.

Why ask over and over - cause the need came back or has not been met yet

This is not about repeating words about being bold and clear and direct

- The only other point of confusion lies in a misunderstanding of the verb “ask”
- Its tense in Greek conveys the idea of continual asking .

But that is not a command to ask repeatedly for the same thing in order to force God into action.

- Like the Simpsons kids

The continuity which Jesus wants is in ceaseless petitioning . He always asking

- In other words, you need never hesitate to ask for something just because you asked for something else earlier
- Any hint that heaven “gets too busy” with earlier requests to have either time or supply for the next is nonsense.

God will not run out of time, patience or supplies

Jesus strikes the death blow to such hesitancy: ask .

- Ask with unabashed forwardness; ask with shameless boldness!
- He commands.
- And when you do, He clearly teaches, your friend My Father, will rise to the occasion, and see that everything you need is provided.

What are the key point of these stories that we should take away

- You have a friend in the heavenly Father . He’s by your side, and available anytime, in every circumstance.
- Boldness is your privilege.
 - Your assignment is to ask ; His commitment is to give as much as you need.

This is the beginning. “Seeking” and “knocking” are further steps as one walks the pathway of prayer.

- But we need to get started, and this is probably the greatest need facing us today: too many hesitate to pray .

I hesitate through a sense of unworthiness,

- a feeling of distance from God,
- a wondering about Gods will in the matter,
- a concern of if it’s okay
- an uncertainty of how much to ask for,
- a fear that God won’t hear.