

Teach Us to Pray: Shameless Prayers

As preached on Sunday, October 11th

Read: Luke 11:1-13

1. Let's begin with the parable Jesus tells in vv.5-8. What is your initial reaction to the actions of the potential host? What about the actions of the friend?
2. What lesson are we to take away from this parable? If the relationship ("friendship") wasn't what persuaded the friend to help, why was the "shameless audacity" effective?
3. In vv.9-10 Jesus moves into a teaching section, telling us to ask, seek, and knock. What does he say will happen if we do? A better translation of this teaching reads, "keep asking... keep seeking... and keep knocking." Does this fuller translation change what Jesus promises?
4. How are we to understand the promise of vv.9-10 when we ask and don't receive, seek and do not find, and knock on a door that will not open? How does the concept of "unanswered prayers" fit with this promise?
5. The last section of this text provides an illustration of God. God is compared to an earthly father. What do you make of the mention of fish, snakes, eggs, and scorpions? What would be modern equivalents to each of these items?
6. We're told that earthly fathers "though (they) are evil" know how to give good gifts. What does this reality suggest to us about the gifts that our heavenly Father will provide? Why do you think the Holy Spirit is mentioned as the gift that is given in v.13? What might the significance be?
7. Being bold, persistently asking, and expecting good answers from God all focus upon what WE can do as we pray. What does this passage teach us about the God to whom we pray?