

Luke 11:5-13

"The Good Gift of the Father"

May 25, 2025

1. Intro

- a. As we dig right in this morning, it is important to note the context of our passage...
 - i. And for us to remember that it is directly connected to the Lord's prayer
 1. As we saw two weeks ago, the Lord's prayer was not something that Jesus gave to us that is supposed to be memorized and repeated word for word
 - a. But rather, he gave us this prayer as a framework to help us remember what is ultimately MOST important
 - i. When we pray, "Father, hallowed be your name,"
 1. We are orienting our hearts towards the holiness of our Father
 2. And we are praying that, above all else, HIS name might be glorified
 - a. Both in our lives AND across the entire earth
 - ii. Which leads us right into praying that HIS Kingdom come
 1. For that is WHY He has saved us
 - a. Not JUST so we can be adopted into the family of God and dwell with Him for all eternity
 - b. But ALSO that we would go out into all the nations...
 - i. Making disciples
 - ii. Baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
 - iii. And teaching them to do all that Christ has commanded
 - c. We have been saved, IN ORDER TO now GO, and expand HIS KINGDOM upon the earth
 - iii. Once we have those two pieces rightly oriented in our hearts, then we can come to our Father with our own personal needs
 1. We can come to Him seeking the daily provision that he promises to give to His children
 2. We can come to Him humbly, yet freely, asking Him to forgive all of our many sins against him
 - a. As we continue to pour out that same kind of forgiveness upon others
 3. And we can come to him, pleading with Him to keep us on the straight and narrow path, keeping us from temptation
 - a. For we are all prone to wander from Him, aren't we?
- ii. This was the framework given to the disciples when they came to Jesus and said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray"
 1. And this is the context we need to keep in our minds as we move into verses 5 and following...

2. Luke 11:5-13

- a. ⁵And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; ⁷and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? ⁸I tell you, though he will not

get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹²or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

3. As he so often did in his ministry, Jesus chose to expand upon his teachings by illustrating them with a parable
 - a. These parables, which we will encounter with increasing frequency in Luke's Gospel, serve a couple of purposes for the followers of Christ
 - i. First, these parables bring the things of heaven down into earthly terms that we can understand
 1. We must never forget that we are dealing with the God of all creation when we come to Him in prayer
 - a. As we've learned in our Wednesday night study, He is Elohim...
 - i. The God who is all-powerful and who is to be feared
 - b. He is Elyon...
 - i. The God who is high and exalted above all things
 - c. He is Adonai...
 - i. The Almighty Lord to whom EVERYTHING is subject
 - d. He is El Shaddai...
 - i. The Almighty who has ultimate power and control over all of His Creation
 - e. And He is Yahweh...
 - i. I Am That I Am
 1. He is self-existent... unchanging... He is the Eternal God
 2. This is the God whom Jesus is telling us to go to in prayer...
 - a. But as Jesus will show us through this parable, this is also the God who loves to give ABUNDANTLY to His children
 - i. Through this parable, the transcendent God who is high and exalted above ALL things,
 1. Is shown to be a wonderfully kind and loving and good FATHER
 - b. So, these parables serve to bring the things of heaven down for us in ways that we can understand
 - ii. But second, they also serve to bring these truths to us in ways that we can easily remember
 1. If someone were to ask you, "How do I know that God will forgive me, even though I've sinned so greatly against Him?"...
 - a. Well, the story that quickly comes to mind is the parable of the Prodigal Son, who rebelled against his father and squandered EVERYTHING he had been given
 - i. And yet it was the Father who came RUNNING to this rebellious son when he finally turned and went back home
 2. If someone were to ask you, "Why bother with Christianity, and all that seeking first the Kingdom of God? My life is actually pretty decent right now without all that religious stuff..."
 - a. Well, the parable that you could share in that moment would be that the Kingdom of Jesus is like a hidden treasure in a field that a man finds

- c. Maybe your greatest need in this moment IS a physical need of provision of some sort, like the man in this parable
 - i. Maybe you DON'T have enough bread in the pantry...
 - 1. Or you don't have enough money in the bank account
 - 2. Or you don't have a car that is running right
 - a. Whatever it might be, you have a very real physical need for your "daily bread", and you have no way of meeting that need on your own
 - d. Maybe, the great need in your life right now is that your heart has become full of bitterness and anger and resentment toward someone else
 - i. Someone has wronged you in some way... maybe in a very significant and even harmful way
 - 1. And, because you have lost sight of the incredible forgiveness that has been given TO YOU in Christ Jesus...
 - a. You are refusing to forgive them
 - b. And you are choosing instead to hang onto all that bitterness and anger instead
 - e. Maybe, the great need in your life in this moment is to find the way of escape out of temptation
 - i. Maybe you've allowed the desires of your flesh to reign in your heart, and you've given in to those temptations of lust... or greed... or covetousness... or apathy
 - 1. And you just cannot find the way out on your own
- ii. In this parable, Jesus places all of us as the first main character... the one who is in a moment of great need
 - 1. And he shows us two very important principles that WE must remember in our moments of need
 - a. The first is this, that it matters not WHEN the hour of our need is
 - i. Here in the parable, the main interaction happens in the middle of the night
 - 1. It happens at midnight, when the other man's door has already been shut..
 - a. The kids are asleep and in bed
 - b. In the eyes of the world, this is an hour of GREAT inconvenience, isn't it?
 - 2. But our times of great need typically don't come when it is convenient for them to come, do they?
 - a. Rarely do our times of need come when we are at the top of our game, and everything is going awesome, and our spiritual walk is firing on all cylinders
 - ii. Instead, more often than not, our times of need come when it isn't convenient at all
 - 1. And yet, Jesus shows us in this parable that the hour of our need matters not...
 - a. Just GO and ask
 - b. And the second principle that Jesus teaches us is that, in our times of need as we see in verse 8, we are to go WITH IMPUDENCE in our asking
 - i. Another way to say it is, we are to go WITH SHAMELESS PERSISTENCE to the one who can meet our need

1. Now, it is so very important that we grasp what Jesus is saying here...
 - a. Obviously, we know that the One that Jesus is telling us to go to is the Father
 - i. So he's not saying that we are to go to the Father with shameless persistence because our Father is in bed and the doors are locked
 - ii. He's not saying that we are to go to our Father with shameless persistence because our Father is reluctant to answer, or because He's annoyed with our timing
 2. We are to go to our Father with shameless persistence because He is the ONLY one who can meet every single one of our needs
- c. And so, that points us to the second main character of this parable...
 - b. The One who has it all
 - i. In this parable, we are the first main character... the one who has the great need
 1. And God is the second main character, the only One who can meet that need
 - ii. And the striking thing that we first see about God in this parable is that he is our FRIEND
 1. Isn't that an astounding statement?!
 - a. That the God of all the Universe, who dwells in unapproachable light, who is perfect in holiness and righteousness and justice
 - i. THIS God... is our FRIEND?
 - b. Brothers and sisters in Christ, we need to realize that this is the truth for all who place their faith fully in the Son of God, and for all who have been brought into the family of God
 - i. Elohim, Elyon, El Shaddai, Yahweh... is our FRIEND
 1. We see this in James 2:23, as James writes,
 - a. *²³and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a FRIEND of God.*
 2. We see this in Exodus 33:11, as we read about Moses,
 - a. *¹¹Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.*
 3. And of course we see this in Immanuel, God With Us, as Jesus says in John 15:13-15,
 - a. *¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.*
- c. If you are in Christ this morning, then God Himself calls you FRIEND
 - i. And you can go to your Friend at any time, at any hour of the day, with whatever need you have
 1. You can ask your Friend, and you will receive
 2. You can seek your Friend, and He will be found

3. You can knock on the door of Heaven, and God, your FRIEND, will answer
 - d. If you are in Christ, then God is truly your Friend, but even more so...
- iii. He is our Father
 1. Jesus clearly illustrates this by way of comparison in verses 11 and 12,
 - a. *¹¹What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹²or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?*
 - i. These are absurd examples... but they prove a point, don't they?
 1. As earthly fathers, we may not be able to always give our children everything they ask for, but we're not going to give them something that hurts them instead
 - ii. If our kids reach the age that they can start to drive, and they come and say, "Father, I'd really like a brand new Ford Raptor with a lift kit and big tires and all the fancy gadgets inside"
 1. We aren't going to say to them, "Uh, no son... but here's box full of explosives instead... and a lit match to go with it"
 - a. That would be a ridiculous response, wouldn't it?
 - i. But instead, we might say to them, "I can give you a little bit of financial help to help you buy a reasonable car... and I'll also help take you to a job where you can earn money yourself to put toward that car"
 - b. We would do what we could to help them meet that need...
 - i. Because we love them, right?
 2. But then Jesus goes on in verse 13,
 - a. *¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, HOW MUCH MORE will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!*
 - i. God opens the door, and He reveals himself to us, and He gives to us... because we are His FRIENDS
 1. But He gives us the BEST gifts, because He is our HEAVENLY FATHER!
 - a. And, in contrast to the evil that still resides in OUR flesh, our Father is infinitely and perfectly... GOOD
 3. My friends, if we were to hold onto this one simple truth, it could change our perspective on EVERYTHING
 - a. We all long for the good gifts of our Father that WE think are good, right?
 - i. We all want the blessings of abundant provision, and healthy relationships, and long seasons of joy and happiness and peace
 1. Those are certainly good gifts from our good Father
 4. But what if we began to look at TRIALS in our lives as good gifts from our good Father as well?
 - a. Isn't this what James says in James 1:2-4?
 - i. *²Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

1. If we truly believe that our Father is GOOD, then now we can begin to embrace our trials WITH JOY
 - a. For God is using those trials to move us closer to completeness in Him
5. Or, what if we began to look at “THORNS” in our flesh as good gifts from our Father
 - a. Isn't this the perspective that Paul took with his thorn in 2 Corinthians 12...
 - i. As he acknowledged that this thorn, whatever that thorn might have actually been, was given to him BY GOD in order to keep him from becoming conceited?
 - ii. And after Jesus told Paul that this thorn WOULD NOT be removed from his life...
 1. Didn't Paul then REJOICE in his weakness, so that the power of Christ might rest upon him?
 - a. If we truly believe that our Father is GOOD, then, like Paul, we can be content with weaknesses... with insults... with hardships... with persecutions... with calamities
 - i. Because our hope is not in our current circumstances
 - ii. Our hope is in the GOODNESS of our Father
6. As Jesus affirmed for us in Matthew 5:10-12,
 - a. *¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*
 - i. How might it change our entire perspective if we believed that God was using EVERY hardship in our lives to bring us further into HIS Kingdom?
 1. How might it change our entire perspective, if we truly believed that our Father was GOOD?
 - c. Well, Jesus indeed teaches us in this passage that our Father is a GOOD Father who loves to give good gifts to His children
5. But the ultimate expression of the goodness of God is found in the greatest gift of all... the gift of the Holy Spirit!
 - a. It is the Holy Spirit who enables us to be born again, which is THE necessary requirement to be able to enter into the Kingdom of God
 - i. This is what Jesus taught Nicodemus in John 3, when he said to him,
 1. *³“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*
 - a. Nicodemus of course didn't understand that Jesus was talking about a SPIRITUAL rebirth, rather than a PHYSICAL rebirth
 2. So Jesus goes on in verse 5...
 - a. *⁵“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”*

- i. In order to enter into the Kingdom of God, you must be born again
 - ii. In order to be born again, you must be REBORN by the Spirit of God
 - ii. Even though Nicodemus didn't understand what Jesus was saying, Jesus wasn't teaching anything new
 - 1. This was just a repackaging of what God had said to Israel in Ezekiel 36:24-27, when He said,
 - a. *²⁴I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*
 - 2. Because our Father is a GOOD Father, He has given to us a NEW heart
 - a. Within this new heart dwells the very Spirit of God
 - i. And because our Father has given us the good gift of the Holy Spirit, we can now walk in joyful obedience to everything He commands
 - 1. And through our Spirit-empowered obedience to the Father, we express our love for His Son
 - a. As Jesus said in John 14:15,
 - i. *¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."*
- b. The Holy Spirit not only regenerates our hearts and makes all of these things possible, but he also serves as the seal – the guarantee – that our position in the Kingdom is sealed for ALL ETERNITY
 - i. In Ephesians 1:13-14, Paul writes that,
 - 1. *¹³In [Christ] you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*
 - a. How awesome is that, friends??
 - i. The guarantee that we will get to enter into the full consummation of the Kingdom IS NOT based upon our good works...
 - 1. It is NOT based upon our not sinning anymore
 - 2. It is NOT based upon our ability to live our lives in perfect worship of our King
 - a. If it was based on those things, we'd all be without hope
 - b. The guarantee that we will enter into our inheritance when all things are made new is that our Good Father has sealed us with the Holy Spirit
 - i. And there is absolutely NOTHING that can remove that seal from our hearts
 - ii. So, the Holy Spirit plays an integral role in our salvation and our ultimate glorification
- c. But the Holy Spirit ALSO plays an integral role in our ongoing sanctification
 - i. According to Romans 8, the Holy Spirit is continually helping us in our weaknesses
 - 1. I think we can all agree that, on the vast majority of our days, our walk with the Lord isn't nearly as good as we would like it to be
 - a. Even though the Spirit has put within us a new heart that delights in the law of the Lord

- i. That new heart is still wrapped up in the old man – or the old woman – of our flesh
 - 1. We all still struggle with sin
 - 2. We all still struggle with walking in obedience to God’s commands
 - 3. We all still struggle with being able to truly LOVE our Father as He deserves
 - b. And yet, Paul says in Romans 8:26-27 that, thanks to the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, there is still LOTS of beautiful work being done INSIDE of us...
 - i. *²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*
 - 1. So in the midst of our struggle with our flesh, the Holy Spirit continues to intercede on our behalf
 - a. And we who are still frail and weak, continue to be sanctified and made more like Christ
 - b. Because our good Father has given us the good gift of the Holy Spirit
 - ii. But the Spirit goes even further in our sanctification than just praying for us, doesn’t he?
 - 1. For he also fills us with the fruits of the Spirit
 - a. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control
 - 2. Friends, if the Holy Spirit dwells within you, then you have ALL of these fruits within you as well
 - a. These aren’t gifts of the Spirit... like some people have the gift of love, or some people have the gift of patience
 - i. These are FRUITS of the Spirit, and they ought to be VISIBLE in every single born again citizen of the Kingdom of God
 - 1. So, what if you DO NOT have joy in your life right now? Or peace? Or love? Or patience?
 - a. Well, then that is the evidence that you are NOT keeping in step with the Spirit
 - ii. And there is something in you that you need to address
 - 1. Is there sin in your life that you need to confess?
 - 2. Is there an act of obedience that you are refusing to submit to?
 - iii. The fruits of the Spirit reside in ALL Christians
 - 1. But it is when we choose instead to gratify the desires of the flesh, that these fruits are choked out
 - 3. How good is our Father, that He would give us the Holy Spirit as a continual “check-engine” light to make us aware of the sin that still dwells in our flesh?
 - a. The Holy Spirit enables our salvation
 - b. He seals us in our glorification
 - c. He guides us in our sanctification
- d. And lastly, the Holy Spirit keeps us focused on our mobilization
 - i. It is the Holy Spirit who gives to each of us unique giftings, as God sees fit

1. This is what Paul so wanted the Christians in Corinth to realize
 - a. Like many of our churches today, the church in Corinth was getting hyper-focused on certain gifts
 - i. These gifts were the exciting gifts... the gifts that grabbed the most attention... the gifts that only the supposed “super Christians” had
2. But Paul reminds them in 1 Corinthians 12 that EVERY Christian has been given a gift of some sort, through the Holy Spirit
 - a. And in verse 7, he says,
 - i. *⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit FOR THE COMMON GOOD.*
 - b. Paul will go on in verses 12 and following to use the analogy of a human body, where EVERY part of the body is unique, and EVERY part of the body serves a purpose
3. Friends, this is absolutely essential for us here at Forest Hills to understand
 - a. Each of you, if you are truly a follower of Christ, has been given a UNIQUE gifting through the Holy Spirit
 - i. And if you withhold that gifting from the church, then we ALL suffer
 1. If my left foot all of sudden decides to stop working, then I’m probably going to fall straight to the ground, won’t I?
 - ii. In the same way, when Christians who are indwelt with the Holy Spirit choose to not engage their spiritual gift in the local church...
 1. Then the entire body is at risk of falling
 - b. In His goodness, our Father has given us the Holy Spirit, not just for our own personal good, but for the CORPORATE good of each individual church
 - i. Forest Hills Baptist Church will not succeed in our mobilization of advancing the Kingdom, UNLESS we all identify the gifting He has given to us,
 1. And then we put that gifting into use for the common good
 - a. In His WISDOM, this is the way our Father has designed HIS church to operate
 - e. And thankfully, in all of this, the Holy Spirit also aids us in our unity with one another
 - i. Just listen to the emotion in the Apostle Paul’s words, as he wrote to the Christians in Ephesus, in Ephesians 4:1-5,
 1. *¹I Therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*
 - ii. Brothers and sisters in Christ, your Father has given to you the good gift of His Holy Spirit
 1. It is the Holy Spirit who enables us to be born again and enter into the Kingdom of God
 2. It is the Holy Spirit who seals us and guarantees the inheritance that awaits us on the other side of glory
 3. It is the Holy Spirit who guides us in our sanctification, interceding for us in our weaknesses, and enabling us to bear the fruits of Christlikeness in our lives
 4. And it is the Holy Spirit who mobilizes us in the advancement of the Kingdom, giving each of us gifts that are to be used for the common good, and uniting us as one body in the bond of peace

- a. And the great encouragement we have from Jesus in this passage is this...
 - i. If you find yourself in a moment of great need...
 - ii. If you find that you have gotten out of step with the Spirit...
 - iii. If you find that you have given into the desires of your flesh...
 - 1. Then you can simply go to your Father, who is also your Friend
 - a. It doesn't matter what time of the day it is
 - 2. You can go to Him... asking, seeking, knocking
- iii. And your Heavenly Father, who is exceedingly and abundantly GOOD, will give the Holy Spirit to all who ask him!
 - 1. May we go to our Father with shameless persistence in pursuit of the Holy Spirit in our lives
 - 2. And may we continue to move forward in the unity of the Spirit, in the bond of peace!