

# Luke 11:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

## Analysis

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**Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?**—The third contrast completes Jesus's trilogy of absurd substitutions: egg for scorpion. A **scorpion** (σκορπίον, skorpion) when coiled resembles a pale egg, yet delivers venomous sting instead of nourishment. Palestine's scorpions (particularly Buthus species) were common household pests whose sting caused intense pain, sometimes death in children.

The progression intensifies: stone (useless deception), serpent (dangerous deception), scorpion (lethal deception). Each mock-gift grows worse, underscoring how unthinkable it is that the Father would give harmful counterfeits when His children ask for good. Verse 13 provides the apex: 'how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?' The ultimate 'good gift' isn't material but the Spirit Himself—God's empowering presence. Prayer's aim isn't manipulating God for bread, fish, eggs, but receiving the Spirit who unites us to Christ and enables Christian life.

## Historical Context

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Eggs (from chickens and other birds) were common protein sources in ancient Palestine. Scorpions inhabited rocky areas and often entered homes, hiding in clothing or bedding. Their pale coloring when curled could deceive in dim light. Jesus's audience immediately grasped the horror of such a substitution, making the Father's trustworthiness unmistakable.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. Have you ever feared that God might give you something harmful disguised as good? How does this passage address that fear?
2. How does recognizing the Holy Spirit as the Father's ultimate gift reorient your prayer requests from material to spiritual priorities?
3. In what ways does the Father's gift of the Spirit exceed even the best earthly gifts fathers can give?

## Interlinear Text

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ἢ	καὶ	ἐὰν	αἰτήσῃ	ὥς	μὴ	ἐπιδώσει	αὐτῷ
<b>Or</b>	G2532	<b>if</b>	<b>he shall ask</b>	<b>an egg</b>	<b>will he offer</b>	G1929	<b>him</b>
G2228		G1437	G154	G5609	G3361		G846

σκορπίον

**a scorpion**

G4651