

# Luke 11:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.

## Analysis

**Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed—** The friend's initial refusal shocks Jesus's audience because it violates sacred hospitality norms. The Greek verb translated **Trouble me not** (μή μοι κόπους πάρεχε, mē moi kopous pareche) literally means 'Do not cause me troubles/labors.' This response would bring communal shame in that culture.

The excuses mount: **the door is now shut** (ἡ θύρα κέκλεισται, hē thyra kekleistai, perfect tense indicating completed action with ongoing state—barred and bolted), **my children are with me in bed** (τὰ παιδία μου μετ' ἐμοῦ εἰς τὴν κοίτην εἰσίν) — a single-room home where the whole family sleeps on a raised platform. Rising would disturb everyone. Yet verse 8 reveals that even this reluctant friend responds to persistence. The parable argues from the lesser to the greater: if a selfish human eventually gives, how much more will God, who is never reluctant, answer persistent prayer?

## Historical Context

Palestinian peasant homes typically had one room with a raised platform for sleeping. The entire family (sometimes including animals below) lived in tight quarters. Doors were heavy wooden bars requiring effort to unbar. Despite these inconveniences, cultural honor normally compelled immediate compliance with hospitality requests—making this refusal deliberately shocking.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does this parable correct false views of God as reluctant or annoyed by persistent prayer?
2. What 'excuses' do you imagine God making when prayers seem unanswered, and how does this parable address them?
3. How does understanding that even a reluctant friend responds encourage you to bring bold requests to your willing Father?

## Interlinear Text

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κάκεῖνος ἔσωθεν ἀποκριθεὶς εἴπῃ Μή μοι κόπους

And he from within shall answer and say not me Trouble

G2548

G2081

G611

G2036

G3361

G3427

G2873

πάρεχε· ἦδη ἡ θύρα κέκλεισται καὶ τὰ παιδία μου

now the door is and children my

G3930

G3588

G2374

G2808

G3588

G3813

G3450

μετ' ἐμοῦ εἰς τὴν κοίτην εἰσίν· οὐ δύναμαι

with me in G3588 bed are I cannot

G3326

G1700

G1519

G2845

G1526

G3756

G1410

ἀναστὰς δοῦναί σοι

rise and give thee

G450

G1325

G4671

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 13:25** (Resurrection): When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door,

saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:

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