

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 παιδιά μου μετ' ἐμοῦ εἰς τὴν κοίτην εἰσὶν)—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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

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

κα̐κεῖνος	ἔσωθεν	ἀποκριθεῖς	εἶπη	Μή	μοι	κόπους		
And he	from within	shall answer	and say	not	me	Trouble		
G2548	G2081	G611	G2036	G3361	G3427	G2873		
πάρεχε·	ἤδη	ἡ	θύρα	κέκλεισται	καὶ	τὰ	παιδιά	μου
G3930	now	G3588	the door	is	and	G3588	children	my
	G2235		G2374	G2808	G2532		G3813	G3450
μετ'	ἐμοῦ	εἰς	τὴν	κοίτην	εἰσὶν·	οὐ	δύναμαι	
with	me	in	G3588	bed	are	I cannot	G1410	
G3326	G1700	G1519		G2845	G1526	G3756		
ἀναστὰς	δοῦναί	σοι						
rise	and give	thee						
G450	G1325	G4671						

Additional Cross-References

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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