

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

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

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
G3930 now G3588 the door is and G3588 children my
G2235 G2374 G2808 G2532 G3813 G3450

μετ' ἐμοῦ εἰς τὴν κοίτην εἰσίν· 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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