

Year C - 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 11:1-10

Ask and you shall receive



When Jesus had finished praying, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his followers to pray." So Jesus told them, "Pray in this way:

'Father, help us to honour your name. Come and set up your kingdom.

Give us each day the food we need.

Forgive our sins, as we forgive everyone who has done wrong to us. And keep us from being tempted.' "

Then Jesus went on to say: "Suppose one of you goes to a friend in the middle of the night and says, 'Let me borrow three loaves of bread. A friend of mine has dropped in, and I don't have a thing for him to eat.'

And suppose your friend answers, 'Don't bother me! The door is bolted, and my children and I are in bed. I cannot get up to give you something.'

"He may not get up and give you the bread, just because you are his friend.

But he will get up and give you as much as you need, simply because you are not ashamed to keep on asking.

"So I tell you to ask and you will receive, search and you will find, knock and the door will be opened for you.

Everyone who asks will receive, everyone who searches will find, and the door will be opened for everyone who knocks."





Introduction: In this gospel, the disciples were trying to learn the best way to talk to God in prayer. Jesus taught them to think of God as someone who was loving and protective, like a father. This changed their whole idea of God from someone who was all powerful and mighty to someone who is a close friend. Jesus taught them a prayer that we still say today.

Message:

- *Note: be aware that some children may come from families in which they do not experience their father as a listening and loving person. Remain sensitive to them.*
- When Jesus taught the disciples how to pray he was also teaching them about who God is and what God is like.
- Jesus said that God is like a good, good father who knows his children, he loves his children and gives them the things they need.
- There are many ways to pray but all of them boil down to simply spending time with God who loves to be with us.
- Sometimes, when we pray we may not feel different. Sometimes it may seem that our prayers don't get answered.
- But, just like the friend in today's gospel, God wants us to be persistent in our prayer. He also wants us to remember that prayer is not like sitting on Santa's lap and asking for what we want. Prayer is being with God, close to his love.

Discussion:

- What are some ways you talk to other people?
- I wonder why God wants to talk to us?
- I wonder how we can talk to God?
- I wonder what are some things you could talk to God about?
- I wonder if you can think of a time when God has answered your prayer?

