



September 24, 2023

Serpents and Scorpions

Luke 11:1-13

The Lord's Prayer: 11:1-4

Both a model for prayer and a formal recitative prayer

Prayers and Psalms in the Temple and later in the synagogue

The gift of not having to find words, of praying together with others

As a model: Praise, Preference, Provision, Pardon, and Protection: should and could

The Comparison with a Grumpy Friend: 11:5-8

The point is not persistence!

A contrast rhetorical device: given X's outcome, how much more likely Y's outcome

Examples: you passed your history final, how much more this driving test

You endured Arizona heat growing up, how much easier Washington summers

If you can procure what you need from a grumpy friend in bed, how much more God-

Who is not in bed, not inconvenienced, is ready to help you, wishes to help you

It is easier, better, more gracious, more likely to receive our God-requests

The main point is: God is NOT unwilling to hear and help!

Teachings of Jesus on God's Father-heart: Luke 15:20; John 14:23-24; 16:23-24, 26-27

Other NT teachings on God's Father-Heart: **Romans 8:31-32**; 1 John 3:1; James 4:8

Trusting the Father-Heart of God to Hear and Answer our Requests: 11:9-13

Ask, seek, and knock and you shall receive

This is not magic formula, carte blanche certitude, technical promise

Good parents would never promise to meet every request of their children

This is more about God's Father Heart than the mechanism of any specific prayer

He is safe, good, generous: come to Him with your requests, good will come of it!

Another comparison of contrast: given X, how much more Y

Examples: if you think my cookies are good, you will love my mother's so much more!

If you think Interlake's Julian Hayes is a great QB, you should see Patrick Mahomes!

If earthly fathers don't give serpents and scorpions, how much more the heavenly Father?

"Holy Spirit" parallels "good gifts": the Father gives Himself in every prayer exchange

A human father's specific gift is a symbol of his whole commitment to his child

Our greatest need and desire is for union with God and God is always giving Himself to us

This is one way to understand what is happening when our requests go unanswered