

Importunity

All things come from the Lord!

Psa 104:14 **He causes** the grass to grow for the cattle, And vegetation for the labor of mankind, So that they may produce food from the earth,

Psa 104:15 And wine, which makes a human heart cheerful, So that he makes *his* face gleam with oil, And food, which sustains a human heart.

He causes food to spring up from the ground to nourish man who is made of dust and from that dust, his body shall return BUT the soul of man is fed by Spiritual things, things that came down out of heaven. It is upon these we must feed that we may return to that place. Heaven

Joh 6:32 Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you **the bread out of heaven**, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven.

Joh 6:33 "For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world."

To be physically healthy, we need good physical food and to be spiritually healthy, we need spiritual food and drink. We are keenly aware of our physical strength particularly when we are weak. When someone we love is taken ill we are filled with a desire to bring that person before the Lord in prayer. There were some in this town (Plainville, MA) who have lost their houses to fire and there has been a tremendous outpouring of people to come to their aid with all types of physical help. When someone is in trouble physically there are often urgent requests made whether it be to God or others for help. James says:

Jas 2:15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food,

Jas 2:16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that?

What of Spiritual needs? What of Spiritual food and covering? Are you aware of those needs? Are you equipped to help with this type of need?

Ask for bread

Luk 11:5 And He said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, 'Friend, **lend me three loaves,**

Luk 11:6 because a friend of mine has come to me from a journey and I have nothing to serve him';

Luk 11:7 and from inside he answers and says, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you *anything*.'

Luk 11:8 "I tell you, even if he will not get up and give him *anything just* because he is his friend, **yet because of his shamelessness** he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

Luk 11:9 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Luk 11:10 "For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, it will be opened.

Shamelessness according to Miriam Webster means **troublesomely urgent** : overly persistent in request or demand

Often, like Martha, we can be shamelessly urgent in our requests to God regarding things that concern us and our will.(James4:3) But what of the will of God? What of the things that concern Him? What of the compassion Jesus showed to those who were like sheep who were harassed and helpless?

In this parable, the friend is asking for a friend. I need bread for them! Please give me bread for my friend!

The friend is hungry from the journey, coming off the road, Perhaps they have wandered away from the truth, (1 Cor 11:30 many among you are weak and sick...) perhaps the work they have been engaged in has left them weary and in need. They are weak and in need of strengthening.

Strengthen by grace

Strength for whosoever...

Joh 3:17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but so **that the world might be saved through Him.**

To serve up Jesus and not judgment to unworthy sinners. The power of God that saves and strengthens...the gospel!

Heb 13:9 Do not be misled by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for **the heart to be strengthened by grace**, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited.

Peter and the disciples needed strengthening in the faith. Jesus asks of the father for bread for them

Luk 22:32 but I have prayed for you, that your faith will not fail; and you, when you have turned back, **strengthen** your brothers."

And from this strength, from this bread Peter would feed Jesus' Sheep. Grace for the humble. (the power of God!)

Bread is made to share

The good shepherd provides abundant food at his table:

Psa 23:5 You **prepare a table before me** in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.

We have fellowship with God and the son when we eat of the bread at his table. We may invite others to the table and when we do we must ask for more bread. This is the fellowship we share, while we were yet sinners Jesus died for us.

We won't be asking for bread if we don't see the need among us. Our own self righteousness will keep us from seeing the spiritual needs of others, we will fail to importune our Lord. How we need to know in our hearts the grace of God and the forgiveness of sin so that we may not ask a miss.

Ask as Jacob asked

He would not let go until he knew he had the Lord's blessing. This is much like the apostle Paul.

2Co 12:8 Concerning this I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might leave me.

2Co 12:9 And He has said to me, "**My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.**" Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that **the power of Christ may dwell in me.**

Joh 15:7 "If you remain in Me, and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Luk 11:13 "So if you, *despite* being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

He will do it!

Balaam had eyes opened to the truth:

Num 23:19 "God is not a man, that He would lie, Nor a son of man, that He would change His mind; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

Num 23:20 "Behold, I have received a command to bless; When He has blessed, I cannot revoke it.

Num 23:21 "He has not looked at misfortune in Jacob; Nor has He seen trouble in Israel; The LORD his God is with him, **And the joyful shout of a king is among them.**

His power is the shout of the king! The word of truth, the Gospel.

Shameless prayer for others

Col 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of your *own*, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings, always striving earnestly for you in his prayers, that **you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.**

Each of us as we are strengthened by the bread of life are to share what we have been given to others. It may seem meager but the Lord is able to multiply what you offer up in faith.

Col 1:28 We proclaim Him, admonishing every person and teaching every person with all wisdom, so that we may present every person complete in Christ.

Col 1:29 For this purpose I also **labor**, striving according to **His power** which works mightily within me.

Let us work for such food.