

PRAYER AND PROMISE

May 1, 1904

Luke 11 : 1-13—Memory Verses, 11-13.

Golden Text—Ask, and it shall be given you ; seek, and ye shall find.—Luke 11 : 9.

1 And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

2 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

4 And forgive us our sins ; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation ; but deliver us from evil.

5 And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves ;

6 For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him ?

7 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.

8 I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you ; seek, and ye shall find ; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

10 For every one that asketh receiveth ; and he that seeketh findeth ; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone ? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent ?

12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion ?

13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children : how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him ?

THE LESSON RETOLD

Once, when Jesus had finished praying, a disciple came to Him, saying, "Master, teach us to pray, as John the Baptist taught his disciples." Now Jesus wanted His disciples to feel that God was more willing to help His people than any earthly friend ; so He told them this parable :—

There was once a man who went from one town to another, to visit a friend. The day being hot, he waited until sundown to set out, and arrived at his friend's house about midnight. His host, not having expected a visitor so late at night, had no food in the house, and not wishing to let his guest go to bed hungry, he ran to a neighbor's to see if he could borrow a little bread.

But his neighbor was in bed, and hearing

his friend's voice at the door, he answered him roughly, "I can do nothing for you ; if I get up I may awaken the children ; trouble me not." But his friend was not to be put off, and kept on knocking and knocking, so that at last his neighbor got up, and gave him all that he asked for, not because he wished to be friendly, but in order to get rid of his troublesome visitor.

"I say unto you," said Jesus, "ask and it shall be given unto you ; seek and ye shall find ; knock and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asketh receiveth ; and he that seeketh findeth ; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

"Never suppose," said Jesus again, "that God is unwilling to give good things to His