

**THE FRIEND
AT MIDNIGHT**

By William T. Barrett

© 2001

LUKE 11

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.

QUESTIONS:

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

LUKE 11

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.

QUESTIONS:

- 1 What is the problem ?

- 2 What is the solution to the problem ?

- 3 When does the problem occur ?

- 4 Who has the answer or solution to the problem ?

- 5 Where is the one who has the answer ?

- 6 Why is the answer or solution given ?

- 7 What are the Real Objects in this parable ?

- 8 What are the Spiritual meanings of the real objects ?

- 9 What is the Spiritual meaning of this Parable ?

LUKE 11

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.

Real Objects


Midnight
Friend
3 loaves of bread
door (shut)
bed
children
hunger

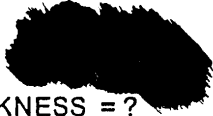
Spiritual Meaning

- 1 What is the problem ?
Physical hunger → Spiritual hunger
- 2 What is the solution to the problem ?
3 loaves of Physical Bread → 3 loaves of Spiritual Bread
- 3 When does the problem occur ?
When it is Physically the Darkest (Midnight) When it is Spiritually the "darkest"
- 4 Who has the answer or solution to the problem ?
Our Physical friend → our SPIRITUAL FRIEND
- 5 Where is the one who has the answer ?
In a Physical Bed, Physically resting, with his Physical Children (In a Spiritual "BED" or Spiritual place of REST with his Spiritual children)
- 6 Why is the answer or solution given ?
Because of "importunity" → # 335 → # 427 in need, without, # 127 reverence
- 7 What are the Real Objects in this parable ?
midnight, Friend, 3 loaves of Bread, door, bed, children, hunger
- 8 What are the Spiritual meanings of the real objects ?
See next page
- 9 What is the Spiritual meaning of this Parable ?

Discovering the Spiritual Meaning of the Real Objects

What does “**Midnight**” or “**darkness**” REPRESENT ?

Key Word 



DARKNESS = ?
(Evening, night, black, **MIDNIGHT**)

COPYRIGHT © 1988 BY W. T. BARRETT


DARKNESS = LACK OF UNDERSTANDING (ERROR)


Ps. 82:5 “They know not, they walk on in darkness . . .”

MIDNIGHT (Greatest Physical Darkness)
(Greatest Spiritual Darkness) or **ERROR**)

“**Midnight**” REPRESENTS “**Lack of understanding**”
AT THE **END** of **TIME**

Who does a “**Friend**” represent ?

Key Word 



FRIEND = ?


COPYRIGHT © 1988 BY W. T. BARRETT


FRIEND = SOME ONE YOU TRUST

PSALMS 41 (THE LORD)
9^{Yea}, mine own familiar friend,
in whom I trusted,
PROVERBS 17
17^{A friend loveth} at all times,
JOHN 15
13 ^{Greater love hath no man} than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Rom. 5:7, 8

A “**Friend**” is “**someone you trust**” (THE LORD)

What do the “**Three loaves of bread**” represent ?

Key Word 



THREE LOAVES = ?
(Bread in 3 parts)


COPYRIGHT © 1988 BY W. T. BARRETT

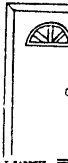
THREE LOAVES = (God's word)
(Bread in 3 parts) (in 3 parts)
THREE ANGELS MESSAGE
Rev 14: 4--10
(see Matt 13:33 study)

Matt 4:4 “Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

“**Three loaves of bread**” represent “**God's Word in three parts**”

What does a “**Door**” (shut) represent ?

Key Word 



DOOR = ?
(shut)

COPYRIGHT © 1988 BY W. T. BARRETT

DOOR = Jesus (I know you not)
(shut) (**PROBATION CLOSED**)

John 10:9 “I am the door: By me if any man enter in, he shall be saved. . . .”

MAT 25 they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.
11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us.
12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.”

A (shut) “**Door**” represents “**The End**” of our “**Probationary Time**”

What does the **"Bed"** represent ?

Key Word



Physical (BED)
Place of Physical
1. BEST
2. RELATIONSHIP
Between a Husband and Wife.

(BED) = ?

BED = (SABBATH)

(Spiritual)

Spiritual (BED)
Place of Spiritual
1. BEST (SABBATH)
2. RELATIONSHIP
Between the Lord and the church
(message) (word)

Luke 11:7 "...my children
are with me in bed."

Ex. 20:11 "...the Lord...rested
the seventh day."

Isa. 57:2 "...They shall rest
in their beds."

Ex. 20:10 "But the seventh day
is the sabbath of the Lord."

Isa. 66:1 "Thus saith the Lord...
where is the place of my rest?"

Ex. 20:8 "Remember the
sabbath day to keep it holy."

The **"Bed"** represents the **"Sabbath Rest and Relationship"**

Who does **"My Children"** represent ?

Key Word



CHILDREN (My) = ?

CHILDREN (My) = GOD'S PEOPLE

I JOHN 3:10 In this the children of God
are manifest, and the children
of the devil: "whosoever doeth
not righteousness is not of God,
neither he that loveth not his
brother.

I JOHN 5 2 By this we know that we
love the children of God, when
we love God, and keep his com-
mandments.

"My Children" represent **"God's People"**

What does it mean to **"Eat"** or **"Be Fed"** ?

Key Word



EAT = ?
(break bread)

EAT = Read (to gain knowledge)
to "feed" = to "teach"

JERE 15:16 'Thy words were found and
I did eat them: and thy word was unto
me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart.'

ACTS 2:46 "... and breaking bread from
house to house, did eat..."

To **"Eat"** means to **"Gain Spiritual Knowledge"**

HUNGER

(SPIRITUAL) **"HUNGER"** is : to be
without a knowledge of **GOD'S
WORD**

HUNGER
(FOR 3 LOAVES
OF BREAD)

(SPIRITUAL) **"HUNGER"** for the
3 MESSAGES of the **3 ANGELS** in
GOD'S WORD

Now that we know the **Spiritual Meaning** of the Real Objects in the Parable, we can substitute these meanings back into the Parable to discover the Spiritual Meaning of the Parable.

Write in the **Spiritual Meaning** of the Real Objects in the table below.

Then, insert the **Spiritual Meaning** of the Real Objects into the “brackets” () on the next page to discover the **Spiritual Meaning** of the Parable.

REAL OBJECTS

SPIRITUAL MEANINGS

friend

midnight

Friend

3 loaves of bread

nothing to set before him

door (shut)

my children

bed

importunity

as many as he needeth

LUKE 11

()
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**.

THE FRIEND AT MIDNIGHT

LUKE 11 : 5-8

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**.

PARAPHRASE 1

During the time of **Greatest Spiritual Error** (midnight), people who have **nothing to satisfy their spiritual hunger** or their friends spiritual hunger (nothing to set before him) will plead with the **Lord** (Friend) for the **truth from His Word**, which is in **three parts** (three loaves of bread). **God's people** (children) who are with Him in the **Sabbath Rest and Relationship** (with him in bed), have had their probation close (door shut). Yet, because of the reverence of those **outside** (importunity # 335, # 247, # 127) who hunger after the truth, the Lord will satisfy their hunger with the truth of the **Three Angels Message** (three loaves of bread) before their probation closes (he will rise and give him).

PARAPHRASE 2

Which of you shall have someone you trust (friend) and shall go to him at the **END of Time** when **Error is Greatest** (MIDNIGHT) and say to him **Lord** (friend) give me the **3 Messages** of the 3 Angels from your Word (3 loaves). A friend of mine has come to visit me and I have **nothing to satisfy his Spiritual Hunger** (nothing to set before him). And the **Lord** shall answer and say **Probation has closed** on my people (door shut) who are with me in the **Sabbath REST and RELATIONSHIP** (with me in bed). I can't rise and give you. Even though he is not his friend, yet because of his need and his reverence and persistance (importunity) he will rise and give him the **3 ANGELS MESSAGES** before his probation closes.

“The Friend at Midnight who asks for three loaves of bread”

Review of Luke 11 : 5-8

This Parable teaches the following

- 1 God Identifies His Church with a Unique Message: The **3 Angels Message**.
- 2 The Three Angels Message will satisfy the Spiritual hunger of people.
- 3 **Probation closes** on God’s Church **first**.
- 4 God’s Church will be “**resting**” **with Him** (keeping the Sabbath) while those outside the church are **not** “resting” **with Him**.
- 5 The Three Angels Message will go to everyone before probation closes for the world.

THE LAST DAY MESSAGE TO ALL THE WORLD (3 ANGELS MESSAGE)

FIRST ANGEL’S MESSAGE

REV 14 : 6 “And I saw another **angel** fly in the midst of heaven, having the **everlasting gospel** to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,
(EVERLASTING GOSPEL) Same means of Salvation for all :

REV 14 : 7 “Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and **give glory to him** ; for the **hour of his judgement is come** ; and **worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.**

(GIVE GLORY TO GOD) Christian Living

(HOUR OF HIS JUDGEMENT IS COME) Judgement is NOW in session

(WORSHIP THE CREATOR) The **Sabbath** of the **Lord** honors **Him** as the **Creator**
(Exodus 20 : 10)

SECOND ANGEL’S MESSAGE

REV 14 : 8 “And there followed another angel, saying, **Babylon is fallen, is fallen**, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

(BABYLON IS FALLEN) Warning against the **religious confusion** and **doctrine of the Churches**

THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE

REV 14 : 9 “And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, **If any man worship the beast and his image**, and **receive his mark** in his forehead, or in his hand,

REV 14 : 10 “The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation ; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb.

(WARNING NOT TO WORSHIP THE BEAST

OR TO RECEIVE HIS MARK) Warning against a specific religious power not to worship as it does nor receive its mark.

Other Bible Study Helps:

You will want to order "*How to Study and Understand Your Bible*" (104) for yourself or for friends or relatives. This book will simplify your study of the Bible using word pictures of real objects to explain the Spiritual meaning of Bible texts. (See *Bible Word Pictures* reference booklet described below.) "*How to Study...*" is also available in Spanish: *Cómo Estudiar y Entender Su Biblia* (204).

Along with the "*How to Study and Understand Your Bible*" book, you will need to also order the *Bible Word Pictures* reference booklet (106). This booklet contains 240 Bible Word Pictures which can be used to study the **Spiritual** meaning of any Bible text. The **Pictures** and corresponding **Bible texts** identify the **Spiritual** meaning of objects and make it easy to visualize and remember them. The *Bible Word Pictures* will allow you to discover the "**hidden treasure**" of the Bible. Also available in Spanish: *Ilustraciones de la Biblia* (206).

You can start a Bible Study Group using the "*How to Study...*" book (104) or the pamphlet lessons (105), along with the *Bible Word Pictures* ref. booklet (106).

The books "*Bible Parables Made Simple*" (101) and (102) cover the Parables, which contain the Truths that Jesus felt were the most important for us to understand. You will be **fascinated** as you see how the Bible explains itself, as the *Bible Word Pictures* reveal the hidden meanings of the parables. **Volume 1** explains 13 parables from the book of Matthew and **Volume 2** explains parables from Matthew and other books of the Bible.

The booklet *Last Day Events* (103) will amaze you as you see all the major events foretold to happen to the church outlined in the first book of the Bible, Genesis.

The book "*Bible Concepts compared to Popular Beliefs*" (107) will surprise you, as you compare the Scriptures and discover the Bible Concept of various subjects as compared to Popular Beliefs.