



## January 26 – I Have a Dream...A Knock at Midnight

Jesus tells a parable about a friend coming to your door at midnight and wanting 3 loaves of bread. What?!? Jesus often taught in parables and people today just as people back then, sometimes wonder what Jesus meant. Join us this weekend as we take some insight from Martin Luther King on this parable that has a lesson and wisdom for us all - even today!

### Scripture:

#### Isaiah 60:1-3, 19-20

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn...

The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night, but the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. <sup>20</sup>Your sun shall no more go down or your moon withdraw itself, for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

#### Luke 11:5-13

Then, teaching them more about prayer, Jesus used this story: “Suppose you went to a friend’s house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, <sup>6</sup>‘A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.’ <sup>7</sup>And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can’t help you.’ <sup>8</sup>But I tell you this—though he won’t do it for friendship’s sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence. <sup>9</sup>“And so, I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup>“You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? <sup>12</sup>Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! <sup>13</sup>So if you sinful people 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.”

### Questions:

- Today’s message talked about how our world is at “midnight” and during this time we desperately seek to obey the “11<sup>th</sup>” commandment - “Thou shalt not get caught”. Do you think this is true? What makes you say what you say?
- Martin Luther King talks of the three loaves of bread in today’s parable as being the breads of faith, hope, and love. Do you think these “breads” can solve some or all of the problems of the midnight we’re in? Why or why not?
- What part of this midnight that we are in bothers you the most? What might you do to either address that fear within you or make a positive difference in the world around you? Or both? What keeps you from doing anything? Ask God for courage this week, that you might step out in faith, hope and love!

### Reading for the Week:

**Monday:** Philippians 4:6-7

**Tuesday:** Hebrews 4:16

**Wednesday:** 1 John 5:14-15

**Thursday:** James 4:10

**Friday:** Matthew 7:7-11