

Approaching God with Bold Persistence. Thursday of 27th Week (Gal 3:1-5, Luke 11:5-13) October 8th, 2020. By Fr. Emmanuel Subaar

Sometimes I meet people who tell me, “Father, I have been praying to God for a long time, but my prayers are not answered. Why do I have to bother God again?” Upon further discussion with most of these people I realize that the longest they have prayed is three months. There are even some people who pray for just one week and expect miracles to happen. That is not the ways of God. In yesterday’s gospel, we heard that Jesus taught his disciples how to pray by giving them the Lord’s prayer as a model of all prayers. Today Jesus continues by giving us the attitude we must have when approaching God in prayer.

Jesus gives two stories about prayer. The first is about the friend at midnight. This person persistently knocked at the door of his friend at midnight and did not return empty handed until his request was granted. The second is a story of a boy who asks his father for a fish or an egg. As evil as this boy’s father may be, the father would not grant a scorpion or a snake to his son when he asked for a fish or an egg. In both cases, the friend and the father though they might be evil, yet through the persistency of the petitioners they would grant their requests.

What Jesus is telling us is that we must always approach God with bold persistency. Jesus ended by recommending that we must keep asking, keep knocking and keep seeking and our needs will be granted. Jesus did not use the more religious term “perseverance,” but he rather used the more secular term “persistence.” If secular people approach things with great persistency, how much more we Christians who have a God who is more willing to grant our needs. We have examples to learn from, especially St. Monica who prayed for 18 years for the conversion of his son Augustine. May the mere conviction that our prayers will be answered motivate us to pray always. **Amen.**