

## A SHAMELESS BOND OF FRIENDSHIP

*Luke 11: 5-13*

So the man goes to his neighbour's house and calls to his neighbour inside, probably waking him, and appeals to him as a friend. When we talk of a friend, we are talking of someone who is "loved, dear, loving, kindly disposed, devoted". A friend is one with whom you are in good terms. Friendship is one of the important elements of this parable. Notice that the word "friend" is used four times in these few verses:

"Then he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a **friend**, and he goes to him at midnight and says, "**Friend**, lend me three loaves of bread, because a **friend** of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.... I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his **friend**, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs."

Jesus point is this: Even though the bond of friendship is strong, it is not strong enough to get the man out of his bed in the middle of the night. But the man's persistence tips the scale in Jesus' parable. In fact, it is a shameless sort of persistence. Thus, the point of the parable, is the importance of persistence, of never giving up. Jesus is saying that the man's *shamelessness*" is quite remarkable. The man is not prepared to wait until morning on grounds of not disturbing his sleeping friend. He goes at midnight and knocks -- for some bread! And he shamelessly keeps on knocking until his friend gets up and gives bread at him just to shut him up. Jesus is demonstrating of the importance of shamelessness and boldness on the part of his followers.