

## DAD'LL DO IT

(Luke 11:1-13)

- Intro: If you ever turn on your TV.
- I'm sure you have heard the commercials.
    - #Dozens of times.
    - #If not hundreds.
  - You may think the commercials are:
    - #Cute.
      - \*Or at least the spokeswoman is cute.
    - #Boringly obnoxious.
      - \*Or obnoxiously boring.
  - But you are not likely to have forgotten the punch line.
    - #Which I guess is the point of commercials.
    - #Punch line which says:
      - \*"Dad'll Do It."

- If Jesus were alive on earth today.
- One of his disciples were to say to him:
    - #"Lord, teach us to pray."
  - I wonder if Jesus might say:
    - #"Dad'll Do It."

- "Dad'll Do It" means that when we pray:
- We can go straight to the top.
  - Dad will never give us snakes or scorpions.

### I. It Is Good To Have Friends In High Places.

#### A. In My 28 Years Of Jail Chaplaincy I Always Had A Connection At The Top.

1. I made it a point of knowing:
  - a. Not just the folks with the keys.
    - That was important.
    - They were the ones who could:
      - #Let me in.
      - #Let me out.
  - b. But I also knew.
    - Administrator of the facility.
    - Director of the department.
      - #So if I needed to pull rank.
        - \*I pulled rank.

2. When I first started.
  - a. There were no religious services.
  - b. There were no volunteers.
    - I was starting something entirely new.
  - c. My appearance at the jail was not always welcomed with open arms.
    - My presence in the institution required change.
      - #Someone had to let me in.
      - #Someone had to move people.
        - \*So that I could have:
          - +Bible study.
          - +Worship services.
      - Many days the jail would schedule a "shake down."
        - #On the days I was to be at the jail.
        - #Secretary would call me.
          - \*Tell me I couldn't come that day.
      - Other days I would have to cool my heels waiting to get in.
        - #I would wait:
          - \*30 minutes.                      \*1 hour.
          - \*45 minutes.                     \*2 hours.
        - #I would get:
          - \*Impatient.
          - \*Tired.
          - \*Aggravated.
        - #But I never went away.
      - It didn't take too long.
        - #Before I had had enough of these silly games.
    - d. One day I went to see the Director of Justice Services.
      - Person in charge of jail operations.
        - #For St. Louis County.
      - I told him about the problems I was having.
        - #Getting in.
        - #Getting much done.
          - \*Because I was wasting so much time.
          - +Just sitting around.
      - He said:
        - # "There's no reason you should have to wait."
        - # "I'll arrange for you to go in the way the staff goes in."
        - \* "By the control center."
      - From that day forward.
        - #I never had to wait to get in.
      - 28 years later.
        - #We had over 300 volunteers going into the jail.
        - \*And a full-time volunteer coordinator.
    - e. It's good to have friends in high places.

3. Old St. Louis County Jail.
  - a. Was not originally designed to be a jail.
    - It started out as a holdover facility.
      - #Where drunks could sleep off a night on the town.
  - b. Over the years it grew into a maximum security institution.
    - With no space allotted for:
      - #Programs.
      - #Religious services.
  - c. So over the years I used:
    - Social worker's office.
    - Laundry room.
    - Sally port.
    - Visiting room.
  - d. I would do my Bible studies on Tuesday nights.
    - When things were quieter.
      - #When the social workers were gone home.
      - #When lawyers were not likely to visit.
    - I often led two classes.
      - #To give everyone a chance to come.
      - \*Who wanted to come.
    - Once in awhile I would do as many as three classes in a night.
      - #If that's what it took to accommodate everyone.
    - It was often 9 o'clock.
      - #Before I got out of the place.
    - One Tuesday night I had finished my last class around 9 P.M.
      - #When one of the inmates asked if we could talk.
        - \*He was a guy:
          - +Who had a lot of emotional problems.
          - +Who wasn't coping well with being confined.
        - \*So I sat down with him.
          - +We talked for about an hour.
      - #When I was ready to leave.
        - \*Shift supervisor called me into his office and said:
          - + "Reverend Dake, do you know what time it is?"
        - \*I looked at my watch and said:
          - + "Yeah, it's 10 o'clock."
        - \*He said:
          - + "My schedule says that you're here until 9 o'clock."
          - = There was a schedule.
            - Space was so limited in the jail.
            - Only one extra-curricular activity.
              - #Could be scheduled at any one time.
                - \*Tuesday night was my night.
                - \*I was on the schedule.

\*I said:

+ "The schedule simply means that this is my night."

+ "But the times on there are just approximations."

= "Sometimes I'm done a little earlier."

= "Sometimes I'm done a little later."

= "Tonight I needed to stay late."

- "This guy had a problem he needed to talk about."

\*Supervisor said:

+ "Reverend Dake, I have to go by this schedule."

+ "I have to know exactly when you're coming in."

= "And exactly when you're leaving."

\*I said:

+ "I can't be exact."

+ "If somebody needs me to stay, I'm going to stay."

e. I don't like getting chewed out for any reason.

-But I especially didn't appreciate getting chewed out,

#For doing what I thought was good and necessary.

f. Next morning I called the Deputy Director of Justice Services.

-I told you how it was good to know the Director.

#Few years later a new position was created.

\*Deputy Director.

-Deputy Director happened to be:

#Friend of mine.

#Brother of a seminary classmate of mine.

#John and I were members of the same congregation.

-Next morning I called John.

#Told him what had happened.

#I said:

\*"John, I put up with a lot of crap in that jail."

\*"But I'm not putting up with this."

\*"I'm just trying to do my job."

\*"I'm just trying to do the ministry I'm called to do."

\*"If somebody needs me to stay, I'm going to stay."

\*"What am I supposed to say?"

+ "Sorry, my time is up."

+ "I'll be back on Thursday."

-John said:

# "Ok, Norm."

# "I hear you."

# "I'll take care of it."

# "Besides it sounds like it's time for a chaplain's appreciation lunch."

g. It's good to have friends in high places—and not just for the free lunch.

4. I didn't always pull rank.
  - a. I didn't always need to.
  - b. I didn't really like to.
    - It was never a power trip for me.
    - I tried to work things out.
      - #Face to face.
      - #Person to person.
    - But if that didn't work.
      - #I wasn't afraid to go up the ladder.
        - \*I could.
        - \*I would.
          - +Take it to the top.

B. As The Baptized People Of God We Have Friends In High Places.

1. Best of friends.
  - a. Who loves us.
  - b. Who died for us.
    - Lifted up in a high place.
      - #In our place.
      - #On a cross.
    - On Easter morning our friend pulled rank.
      - #Rising to the highest place above.
        - \*Philippians 2:9.
  - c. Who forgives us.
  - d. Who redeems us.
  - e. Who says to us:
    - In good times.
    - In bad.
      - #"Why don't you take it to the top?"
      - #"Dad'll Do It."
2. It's a special relationship.
  - a. It started in baptism.
    - When we were adopted into the heavenly family.
      - #Through water and the word.
  - b. It means we can go straight to the top.
    - Straight to dad.
    - You don't need anyone to pray for you.
    - You don't need me to pray for you.
      - #But:
        - \*I have.
        - \*I do.
        - \*I will.

#Because we made a deal, you and I.

\*When I was installed as pastor here.

+Bishop stood here.

=I stood down there.

+Bishop asked me several questions, including:

="Will you love, serve and pray for God's people?"

-I said I would.

#I have.

#I do.

#I will.

+Bishop asked you several questions, including:

="Will you pray for Pastor Norm?"

-You said you would.

-We pray.

#With.

#For.

\*One another.

#Each and every one of us.

\*Going straight to the top.

+Trusting that "Dad'll Do It."

c. But what is it, exactly, that we trust Dad will do?

## II. We Trust That Our Heavenly Dad Will Always Do What Is Best For Us.

### A. Our Dad Will Never Give Us A Snake Or A Scorpion.

1. Even though there may be times we have:

- a. Bats in the belfry.
- b. Crickets in the office.
- c. Squirrel in the kitchen.
- d. Mouse in the fellowship hall.

-We trust that God is:

#Good.

#Gracious.

#Loving.

#Kind.

2. Perhaps you noticed something different about Luke's version of the Lord's Prayer.

a. It's different.

-From Matthew's version.

-From the way we tend to memorize it and pray it.

#Because we tend to memorize and pray Matthew's version.

b. Many Biblical scholars believe.

-Luke's version may be closer to the prayer Jesus taught.

- c. But there is no petition:
    - “Your will be done.”
    - “Deliver us from evil.”
  - d. What does this mean?
    - That we can pray for whatever we want?
      - #Whatever expresses our will?
        - \*Even if it is evil?
    - I don’t think so.
3. Jesus teaches us to pray:
- a. “Your kingdom come.”
  - b. Whenever and wherever:
    - God’s kingdom comes.
    - God establishes God’s rule.
      - #In our world.
      - #In our hearts.
  - c. We can be certain:
    - God’s will will be done.
    - We will be delivered from evil.
  - d. God answers our prayers.
    - In God’s way.
    - In God’s time.
4. Before Pam and I got married.
- a. I had been single for about 10 years.
    - Way too long.
  - b. For years I prayed and prayed and prayed.
    - God would put a woman in my life again.
      - #Good and Godly woman.
      - #Woman I could love.
      - #Woman who could love me.
  - c. For years and years there was no one.
    - My prayers seemingly bouncing off the ceiling.
  - d. Then one day I met some one.
    - She was good and Godly.
    - She said she loved me.
    - I loved her.
      - #I thought that God had finally answered my prayers.
      - But when the relationship didn’t grow into marriage.
        - #Like I wanted.
          - \*I was not only hurt.
          - \*My faith was shaken.
            - +How could God put love in my life?
              - =And then take it away again.
            - +That’s not the kind of God I wanted to put my faith in.

- e. Then one weekend I preached in Pam's church.
  - It was the Saturday evening service.
  - #I was sitting in the front row.
  - #Before the service started.
    - \*I turned around to see who all was there.
      - +There in the back row was Pam smiling at me.
      - +Or was it God smiling at me?

5. We may not always get:

- a. Egg.
- b. Fish.
  - We think we want.

6. But we will not get:

- a. Snake.
- b. Scorpion.

7. We will get:

- a. Egg.
- b. Fish.
  - God knows we need.
  - “Dad’ll Do It.”

B. Our Heavenly Dad Gives Us The Holy Spirit.

1. Why the Holy Spirit?

2. Holy Spirit helps us:

- a. To pray.
  - Romans 8:26-27.

- b. To believe.
  - 1 Corinthians 12:3.

#To believe that Jesus is Lord.

\*Not just to have faith that saves.

+Ephesians 2: 8.

\*But to have the faith that sustains us.

+When our prayers are seemingly:

=Bouncing off the ceiling.

+When we are faced with:

=Disappointment.

=Loss.

=Grief.

+When the world seems to give us:

=Snakes.

=Scorpions.

-Instead of:

#Eggs.

#Fish.

\*To believe that “Dad’ll Do It.”

Concl: Here at this altar.

-It's not:

#Eggs.

#Fish.

-It's:

#Bread and wine.

#Holy Spirit.

#God's smile.

#Faith and forgiveness.

#The kingdom coming.

\*Straight from the top.

-It's true.

#Dad'll Do It."