

Proper 12

Genesis 18:20-32

Psalm 138

Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)

Luke 11:1-13

Abraham, demanding, bargaining with God.
God seems very weak to be so easily swayed.
Or is he?

Jonah

Children – we try pretend not to understand them, so that they have to work out for themselves what it is they want. Like in my last job.

So perhaps this is what's happening here.

And perhaps that is what's happening when the disciples ask Jesus how to pray. He tells them to ask for what it is they want.

Abraham talking to God.
Us talking to God, God getting us to tell him what we want
Conversation
Not just praying by saying how wonderful God is but actually talking to him.

Perhaps this is all it is

The friend at midnight – That is us. God telling us to behave as he behaves.

Bread – not just literally
Forgiveness, acceptance. Prodigal son, second chance.
Only if we are forgiven
Temptation - don't test us more than we can bear.

Go to God direct and accept no substitutes, no false idols like cosmetic surgery, or dieting, or physical things, or the latest fashion

Be persistent
God knows all, knows what we want, but he still wants us to ask
That is, perhaps we only then know what we want
When I've formed the words with my mouth, I know whether I want it.

Don't ask for what we want but what God wants.
We'll come to see that prayer changes us, unlocks God's purpose in us, makes us see what it is we need to do.

Amen