

## Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Cycle C

Genesis 18: 20-32  
Psalm 138: 1-3, 6-8  
Col 2: 12-14  
Luke 11: 1-13

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“Stop pestering me! Not now!” Do you remember ever being told that as a child. Or perhaps it was a plea by you to one of your own children. “Stop bugging me.” Yet if we played it right we eventually got what we wanted. Persistence almost always wins the day.

Well that is pretty much the message of the scriptures today. Keep bugging and re-negotiating with the Lord and most often, as with our parents, our pleas will be answered. In the first reading today we hear of Abraham pleading with the Lord. Abraham keeps pleading and re-negotiating the deal. “Fifty people Lord? Forty-five people Lord?” But Abraham persisted, saying, “What if only forty are found?” Finally Abraham closes the deal with, “What if there are at least ten there?” Our Creator is even more than a loving parent and wants as any parent does only the best for their children. Even the Gospel tells us to keep knocking and bothering the Lord and He will respond to whatever we need because of our persistence and not because we are necessarily deserving.

Ask and you shall receive is something we have all heard since childhood about the Lord. Well, it is true. If we ask and keep asking our pleas will not only be heard, but almost always answered. Sometimes not answered exactly in the manner in which we hoped but answered nonetheless. Any parent will not knowingly give a child what is not good for them even though a tantrum might precede the plea.

The Lord Jesus tells us that the ideal mother or father will give good gifts to their children. Imagine “how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.”