

Matthew 7:7-11

Introduction

I. Understanding Jesus' teaching correctly

- A. Why _____ teaching on prayer? (See Matthew 6:7-13)
- B. Prayer occupies a _____ place in this "Sermon on the Mount."
- C. In the Sermon on the Mount, it may *seem* that all we have is a long list of _____ without any mention of _____ (cf. 5:48).
1. The Sermon on the Mount is breathtakingly _____.
 2. So where do we find grace? How do we receive God's enabling power?
 3. _____
- D. In this context, when we pray (ask, seek, knock), we are praying first and foremost that we might _____, and _____, and _____, and *be* all that we are called to be as citizens of the kingdom!
- E. "Ask" reminds us of the things that Jesus told us to ask for in the Lord's Prayer (6:9-13).
- F. "Seek" reminds us of Matthew 6:33 – "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."
- G. Luke 11:13 – If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

H. The demands of the kingdom are so stringent and so high that _____ must become our very _____.

II. Embracing and applying Jesus' teaching with joy

A. Why more teaching on prayer?

1. Because as we are confronted with the breathtaking demands of God's law...
2. And at the same time confronted with our own sinfulness...
3. Jesus doesn't want us to _____. He wants us to be full of a joyful and humble confidence in God's _____.

B. Verse 7 – Jesus uses _____ different ways to say the exact _____ thing because He doesn't want to leave any _____ in our minds.

C. Verse 8

1. Verse eight is basically an exact _____ of verse seven, just slightly reworded!
2. Why would Jesus say the same thing _____ times in a row?
3. Jesus wants to instill in us the _____ that we *will* be answered when we ask and seek and knock.
4. And yet we must ask and seek and knock with _____ of our hearts (cf. Isaiah 29:13).
 - a. Jeremiah 29:13 – You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.
 - b. Deuteronomy 4:29 – But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.
 - c. We must be _____ and _____ when we ask God for His help and enablement.

D. Verses 9-11

1. Verses 9-10
 - a. This father is trying to _____ his child into thinking that the stone is bread (cf. Mat. 4:3) and that the snake is a fish!
 - b. We don't come very far short of accusing our Father God of that very thing whenever we are filled with _____.
2. "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children..."
 - a. Jesus *doesn't* say: "If you then, who are _____, know how to give good gifts to your children..."

- b. Even evil men and women, fully _____ of hell, know how to give good gifts to their children!
3. “*How much more* will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!”
- a. See the _____ faith that Jesus is calling us to have!
 - b. When it comes to the very *difficult* task of living the kingdom life, obtaining the infinite grace necessary to empower us for the task is simply a matter of _____.

Conclusion

- A. When we sin, it is *never* God’s _____. ***For He has made _____ provision for us to live as faithful citizens in the kingdom of His Son.***
- 1. James 1:13-17 – Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*
 - 2. 2 Peter 1:3-4 – His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 10:13 – No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.
- B. Augustine prayed: “Demand what you will and _____ what you demand.”
- 1. According to our text, this is exactly the kind of prayer that God _____ to answer.
 - 2. Romans 8:32 – He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Teaching our Children

Q. When Jesus teaches us about the ways and the commandments of His kingdom, we learn that they are *very* hard and *very* difficult (review some of the Sermon on the Mount). How could this make us feel?

A. We could feel discouraged and hopeless – like it’s not even worth trying to obey.

Q. If we are ever going to be able to live righteously and obediently in Jesus’ kingdom, then what do we need very, very badly?

A. We need God’s *grace* (God’s *power* that makes us *able* to obey)!

Q. How can we receive this grace that gives us power to obey?

A. Just by asking! (Read Matthew 7:7-8)

Q. When we ask for God’s grace how do we need to ask?

A. We need to ask with all of our heart – sincerely and earnestly. (See Scriptures under II. C. 4.)

Q. Why do you think that Jesus says basically the same thing six times in a row?

A. Because Jesus knows that sometimes we doubt whether God will really give us all that we need to live obediently to Him (this is sinful thinking).

Jesus wants us to be completely convinced that when we ask, we *will* receive God’s grace!

Q. Whose fault is it when we sin?

A. It is *always* my fault and *never* God’s fault. (See Scripture under Conclusion A. 1.)

Read verses 9-11 and rejoice with your children that God is *always* willing to *grant* everything that He demands. (See Scriptures under Conclusion A. and B.)

Encourage your children to trust in God and always ask Him for the grace to do what is right.