

# ASK ... SEEK ... KNOCK

## MATTHEW 7:7-11

Text: Matthew 7:7-11

### **Matthew 7:7-11**

<sup>7</sup> Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: <sup>8</sup> For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. <sup>9</sup> Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? <sup>11</sup> If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

Introduction:

Three times in the Sermon on the Mount our Lord speaks on the subject of prayer. The text for this we have read is the third of the three times.

The Lord did much instruction about prayer in His teaching during His earthly ministry. We do well to study His instructions. These instructions will encourage us to pray and will educate us in how to pray.

Notice:

# 1. THE COMMAND TO PRAY (VS. 7)

## **Matthew 7:7**

<sup>7</sup> Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

To better understand this command note 2 things:

### A. The Privilege of Prayer

Praying is a privilege.

To ask and seek and to knock where God is involved is a great privilege.

For God to hear us is a great privilege.

### B. The Priority of Prayer

Prayer is to have a high priority.

Prayer is not an extra assignment to obtain extra credit or to catch up in class if you want to pass; but is a regular assignment which is our duty to do.

Prayer is so imperative that to not pray is disobedience.

## **2. THE CHARACTER OF PRAYER**

The Lord not only instructs in the importance of prayer but also shows us the characteristics which our prayers should have.

He tells us how to pray as well as simply to pray.

Note the characteristics of how we should pray:

### **A. We Should Pray Humbly – Ask**

We are asking, which makes us dependent  
We are to come to the Lord as a beggar.

### **B. We Should Pray Earnestly – Seek**

The word 'seek' means to look for something.

It means to look earnestly

This seeking involves effort and energy

Prayer is not a casual exercise or just going through motions.

We cannot expect God to get earnest about answering our prayers if we are not earnest in praying our prayers.

**James 5:16**

<sup>16</sup> Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

C. We Should Pray Believingly – Knock

One knocks on a door that is closed.

When we pray when we pray the door appears closed. When the door is closed we are still to believe in the promises of the Lord and knock anyway.

We are to demonstrate faith when praying. We are to ask in faith.

**James 1:6**

<sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

D. We Must Pray Reverently – Knock

This word means to rap. It means knock reverently.

To knock politely

When we pray we should not pray with an attitude that God owes us the answer.

We are addressing God, not some human and when we address God we must speak with the greatest respect.

## E. We Are to Pray Persistently

Note the Parable in Luke 11.

In this parable the Lord is teaching about praying for others.

Note

- The Concern of the Friend

Was concerned about the needs of his guest

Was concerned enough to go out and meet the need

The concerned knew where to go for help

- The Compassion of the Friend

He went to his friend for help

He had a humble spirit

Wasn't too proud to let his friend know not only his need but the need of his friend

He went at an inconvenient time

- The Coldness of the One Friend

I believe represents a number of "Christians" today

Too many times we close the door in the face of those we are to help

- The Consistency of the Other Friend

His importunity

**Luke 11:8**

<sup>8</sup>I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

Did not give up after the first request was not granted

Continued to knock and ask unashamedly

His persistence paid off

### **3. THE CONSEQUENCES OF PRAYING (VS. 8-11)**

**Matthew 7:8-11**

<sup>8</sup>For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. <sup>9</sup>Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? <sup>10</sup>Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? <sup>11</sup>If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

This instruction to pray also includes the consequences of praying or the promises for praying. They are a great encouragement to pray.

Ask – Receive

Seek – Find

Knock – Opened

The Father gives good things to them that ask.

We see in this the:

Generosity of God

Greatness of God