

Series: Get Help, Give Help #4

Message Title: Let's Get Practical

Message & Scripture Highlights:

Have a few people read the following scriptures:

Matthew 7:7

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Discussion Part 1:

During this series called "Get Help", discuss how you have begun to apply Jesus' principle of humbling yourself and actually doing the above in Matthew 7:7.

S.Marshall thoughts:

We live in a world that desperately needs help. As believers, we are called to pray, but Jesus gives us practical instruction to "ask", "seek", and "knock". There is nothing wrong with putting a Bible verse up on Facebook but at some point, your faith must move past being theoretical and get pragmatic. Faith has evidence. Do more than post a bible verse but invite someone to church or a 'Watch Party'. Ask.

Have someone read:

1 John 4:18 "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love."

Acts 4:29

Grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word,

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men that they may see your moral excellence *and* your praiseworthy, noble, *and* good deeds and recognize *and* honor *and* praise *and* glorify your Father Who is in heaven.

Discussion Part 2:

St. Francis reportedly said, "*Preach Jesus, and if necessary use words.*" Your life should preach - not in a 'preachy' or Pharisaical way, but rather by example. Romans 2:4 asks the question, "*Is it not the goodness of God that leads men to repentance?*" Ask one another if your life preaches and how does it communicate the Gospel? Ask "*why*" your neighbors or co-workers would want what you have. (Hint: peace, joy?)

Stephen Marshall Thoughts:

Your getting help is as much about you receiving help as it is about you becoming a minister of that help. God is into multiplying His goodness. When Jesus spoke of those who were thirsty getting refreshed, He said that rivers would come out of their inner most being (John 7:37-38). God loves you, and God loves others through you.

Life Application:

It is critical to your spiritual health that you give. Decide right now with each other how you are going to “Give Help”. You have needs yourself but as you have been learning, getting help is intrinsically connected to giving help. Jesus asked the woman at the well for a drink (John 4). The prophet Elijah asked the starving widow for bread. How will you help this week? Who will you give to? When will this happen? What do you expect to happen and how will God be involved with this “give”?

Now Pray The Word:

Get someone (or a few people) to lead out in prayer based on the Truth talked about. Pray according to the above scriptures:

“God the time has come to activate the Word that we have been hearing. We know that to hear and not obey is sin. We miss out on Your goodness and grace when we just nod our head but do nothing. We ask, as Jesus instructed us, for Your help. Some of us need a healing, some of us need a job, and some of us need joy to replace the sadness of heart. We ask, seek, and knock by faith believing that You hear our cry and answer our prayer. Now show us exactly how to act on our faith. What can we give to You seeing we know You are faithful to answer our prayer? We give You our attention. We give You our obedience. We give you our strength, influence, and commit to begin inviting others to church and ‘Watch parties’ because that’s what disciples of Christ do ... they invite others to hear the Truth ... (Continue to pray specifically for one another’s needs ...)