

Semon on the Mount

– 12 –

A.S.K.

Discernment is the Spirit-empowered ability to perceive, distinguish, and judge rightly between truth and error, good and evil, or God's will and worldly influence, based on God's Word and wisdom.

Matthew 7:1-2 Judge not, that you be not judged. ² For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.

- “Judge not” – Judge rightly.
- Sow and reap.

Matthew 7:3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?

Matthew 7:6 Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

- Pearls = God's word
- Dogs & Pigs – people who blaspheme God and don't care to listen.

If we need discernment how do we get it?

Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

- Ask – You know you have a need. You approaching God with humility and are humble enough to ask for His intervention.
- Seek – “you will find” something you don’t have yet because you’re not seeking. Curiosity about Him.
- Knock – Perseverance.

A.S.K. – Ask. Seek. Knock.

Matthew 7:8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

“Everyone” to “the one”.

God does not hear and respond to the prayers of:

- Those who cherish sin – Psalm 66:18
- Those who ignore God's Word – Proverbs 28:9
- Those who oppress the poor – Proverbs 21:13
- Those who pray selfishly – James 4:3
- Those who dishonor their spouse – 1 Peter 3:7
- Those who pray to impress others – Matthew 6:5
- Those who are proud and self-righteous – Luke 18:11-14
- Those who persist in evil – Isaiah 1:15

God hears and responds to the prayers of:

- The Humble (Psalm 34:18, Isaiah 66:2)

- The Repentant (1 John 1:9, Psalm 51:17)
- The Righteous (James 5:16, Proverbs 15:29)
- The Needy Who Cry for Help (Psalm 34:15, Psalm 145:18-19)
- Those Who Pray According to His Will (1 John 5:14-15)
- The Persistent (Luke 18:7, Matthew 7:7)
- The Child of God (Romans 8:15, Hebrews 4:16)

Matthew 7:9-11 9 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

- This is in the context of a relationship with God.
- Evil – Even flawed, sinful parents provide for their children.
- God is not reluctant.

Matthew 7:12 So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.