

I. Jesus Taught Discernment in Kingdom Release (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."

4 Primary Kingdom Releases: 1. We release our time 2. We release our money
3. We release our energies (gifts, talents, skills) 4. We release the Gospel

II. Jesus Taught Persistency in Prayer (7-8)

A. Clear instructions about prayer - Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

1. Prayer involves specific requests - "Ask, and it will be given to you..." Keep on speaking your need
2. Prayer involves deliberate investigation - "...seek, and you will find..." Keep on looking for the answer
3. Prayer involves true expectation - "...knock, and it will be opened to you." Keep on exploring each opportunity

B. Cultivate expectations in prayer - "For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened."

1. Those who continually ask, eventually receive - "For everyone who asks receives..."
2. Those who faithfully seek, will inevitably find - "...and the one who seeks finds..."
3. Those who humbly anticipate, find joyous reception - "...and to the one who knocks it will be opened."

**WE ARE COMMANDED TO THE DUTY OF ASKING, SEEKING, AND KNOCKING
GOD IS COMMITTED TO THE DELIGHT OF GIVING, ANSWERING, AND OPENING THE DOOR**

C. Foundational considerations for prayer (9-10) - "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? 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?"

Jesus places the loving, committed paternity of God the Father as the foundation for our confidence in prayer.

III. Jesus Taught Intentionality in Relationships (12)

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

- A. Relational expectations - "whatever you wish that others would do to you"
- B. Relational instructions - "do also to them"
- C. Relational foundations - "for this is the Law and the Prophets."