

Matthew 7:7-11
Pursuing the Heavenly Father

Matthew 7:7-11 – “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? 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!”

Martyn Lloyd-Jones – “I cannot imagine a better, more cheering or a more comforting statement with which to face all the uncertainties and hazards of our life in this world that that contained in verse 7-11. It is one of the greatest comprehensive and gracious promises which are to be found only in the Bible. There is nothing that can be more encouraging as we face life with all its uncertainties and possibilities, our ‘future all unknown’.... There is no doubt about it, it is certain, it is an absolute promise. What is more it is a promise made by the Son of God Himself, speaking with all the fullness and authority of His Father.”

Kingdom Life is knowing the heart of your Heavenly Father toward you.

Psalms 139:1-6, 17-18 – “O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it... How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.”

What is my response to knowing my Heavenly Father's heart toward me?

I. I will ask, seek, and knock with *persistence*. (v.7)

- A. Ask – implies asking for a conscious need.
- B. Seek – involves asking but includes action.
- C. Knock – includes asking plus action plus persevering.

Isaiah 40:28-31 – “Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”

II. I will ask, seek, and knock with *confidence*. (v.8)

A. Confidence is not in the provision but in the Provider.

Hebrews 4:16 – “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

III. I will ask, seek, and knock with *expectance*. (vv.9-11)

Q1: What are the good gifts/things?

A. Physical provision

James 4:3 – “You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.”

B. Spiritual Provision

Psalm 37:4 – “Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.”

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!”

Reflection Questions:

Q1: Do I really believe that my Heavenly Father has my best interests at heart?

Q2: What have I given up asking, seeking, and knocking about in my prayer life?

Q3: What door has the Father opened up that I am not willing to walk through?

Q4: What or where is my Heavenly Father asking me to trust in Him?

Luke 7:7-11 (The Message) – “Don’t bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need. This isn’t a cat-and-mouse, hide-and-seek game we’re in. If your child asks for bread, do you trick him with sawdust? If he asks for fish, do you scare him with a live snake on his plate? As bad as you are, you wouldn’t think of such a thing. You’re at least decent to your own children. So don’t you think the God who conceived you in love will be even better?”