

Astonished prt 17

Matthew 7:7–11

MPS: **God gives good things to those who ask**

INTRO

- Jesus wants us to pray – 3 times He invites us to pray – actually they are commands to pray, but they are lovingly commanded... Ask your Father for the help you need!
- **God gives good things to those who ask**

OPEN

- You have probably heard the story of Icarus and his father Daedalus – it's a story from Greek mythology (it's important to remember we don't get truth or life application from GK mythology – but we can extrapolate a point)
- Icarus did not die because he flew. He died because he flew too high and ignored the direction and design of His father. The tragedy in this myth is that Icarus' father gave him everything he needed to make it out alive and reach his destination alive. But Icarus went outside of his father's design, seeking good things, and was plunged to ruin.
- We have a good heavenly Father who also wants to give us good things – freedom, joy, and ultimately take us to our final destination – His 'not yet' kingdom.
- He has a desire and a design to give good things to His children – Jesus teaches those to us.
- **God gives good things to those who ask**
- The invitation, the promise, and the truth

1. The invitation:

Vs 7 *“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*

a. The invitation is repetitive

- The repetition is meant to say, “I mean this. I want you to do this. I desire this for you”
Ask your Father for what you need.
Seek your Father for the help you need.
Knock on His door so he will open and give you what you need.
- Ask, seek, knock. I invite you *three times* because I really want you to enjoy your Father's help.

b. The invitation implies perseverance

- The verbs are **imperatives** (commands) in Greek, often carrying a sense of ongoing action: *keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on knocking*.
- This points to **perseverance in prayer** rather than one-off requests.
- It's like the widow and the unjust judge from Lk 18–
- **Luke 18:1 (ESV) 1** *And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.*
- she beat him down and God is like, I desire for you to beat me down.
- “She persisted until he relented.”

c. The invitation has levels of accessibility

There's a threefold variety of invitations. Our Father will be found God in different levels of accessibility.

Ask

- Dad, can you get me a Dr Pepper?
- Can you sign this form,
- Will you take me to my friends house,
- Can I spend some time with you – can you take me on a daddy-daughter date at steak and Shake?
- There is immediacy in this level.

Seek

- Mom, mom! Where's mom? - She's outside potting ferns.
- Announce seek night. June 28 and July 19 at 5pm for Seek Nights.

Knock

Dad's in his office at church, they knock. They wait. And Dad answers.

- We often equate doors in the Bible to the price is right more than the presence of God.
- We experience God in all levels of accessibility, but doesn't it seem like we spend more time in 'seeking' than the others?
- Colombia
 - Students in seminary,
 - Grizelda, hunger to seek.
 - Laura, seeking leads to joy. hunger to learn.

- They don't have the distractions but they have the hunger – they are seeking and God is giving them good things.
- SERVIDOR (humble servant) ¿Te puedo ayudar en algo? "**Can I help you with something?**"
- **Greenbriar Church helped Juan to build out the seminary – Praise HIM that HE used us.**

2. The promise

Vs 8 *For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.*

a. The promise is to God's children

- First of all, who is everyone? His children (vs 11 – Father and children)

John 1:12 (ESV) 12 *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,*

b. The promise is to meet the deeper need behind our request

- "God fixes our prayers on the way up" JI Packer
- If He doesn't answer the prayer exactly as we asked it, He will answer the deeper prayer we should have made—meeting the truer need behind our request.
- The need behind the ask is always answered.
 - Paul needed more of Christ's strength and humility, not less pain. The result? Paul learned to boast in his weakness and experienced the power of God in a way he never would have if the thorn had been taken away.
 - A young pastor and his wife prayed earnestly for a large, growing church in a comfortable city. Instead, He led them to a small, struggling congregation in a hard neighborhood. Years later they realized God had answered the deeper prayer they didn't even know to pray: to make them pastors who love people more than platforms, who depend daily on God's power instead of their own talent,

- “God will either give us what we ask for in prayer or give us what we would have asked for if we knew everything he knows.”
- Desperation prayers – God help

c. The promise is to not give us harmful things.

Vs 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?*

- You may not know the thing you are asking for is harmful – but God does and He want give it to you.
- He won’t ever give us something bad – he won’t give a rattlesnake when you ask for a fish (nourishment)
- If you are praying to win the lotto...

1 Timothy 6:9–10 (ESV) *9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.*

3. The truth

Vs 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!*

a. We are not good – but God is.

- Consider the disciples are in this crowd of listeners – he considers them evil.
- What does that mean? That sounds pretty bad and condemning... not encouraging at all.
 - i. Evil because of our sinful, fallen flesh
 - ii. Evil when compared to a holy, good God

b. Our Heavenly Father Is Better than Our Earthly Father

- God will give us good things because He has already given us the good gift of becoming His children.

c. God gives good things to those who ask

- Luke's parallel in 11:13 specifies the Holy Spirit as the ultimate good gift... meaning His presence.

CONCLUSION:

- The sermon on the mount without the cross would crush us.
- But when they come together, it is glorious.
- Adopted kids, a loving Heavenly Father who gives good gifts to those who ask.

John 3:36 (ESV) 36 *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*

- He died, on the cross, to make the sermon on the mount work.
- He's not a judge with wrath toward you anymore. He's a father with gifts now.

QUESTIONS FOR GROUPS:

Question 1:

Jesus gives us a clear invitation in Matthew 7:7 to **keep on asking, seeking, and knocking**. Share a time when you prayed persistently (like the widow in Luke 18), but God answered in a way that was different than you expected. How did you eventually see that He was meeting a *deeper need* behind your request?

Question 2:

The main point of the sermon says, "God gives good things to those who ask" because He is a far better Father than any earthly father.

Looking at your own life right now, in what area do you most need to trust God as a good and generous Father — especially when His answer might look different from what you're asking for? (take time to pray with one another for those things).