

Sermon on the Mount

Ask, Seek, Knock

Matt 7:7-20

Points to Consider

1. What Jesus is Not Talking About
2. What Jesus is Talking About
3. Get Busy

What Jesus is Not Talking About

Matt 7:7-9 *Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.*

Jesus is not talking about asking for physical blessings in _____.
Jesus says _____ who asks receives. That is not always true about things for which we pray.

Matt 6:8-13 *Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. 9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

Earlier in the sermon Jesus gave a model prayer. This prayer only included one statement that dealt with a _____ need. Jesus included a statement about _____ food.

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on _____.

You cannot serve God and _____.

Life is _____ than food and the body more than clothing.

Matt 6:31-34 *Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

Just a few minutes earlier Jesus said don't worry about _____ things.

God knows what you _____ before you ask.

To think that Jesus is concluding a deeply challenging and _____ message by telling us to ask for _____ things is missing the point.

What Jesus is Talking About

Matt 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ... 23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom...

Everywhere Jesus goes He talks about the kingdom of _____.
The _____ begin and end with "For theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Matt 5:19-20 Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus says that if you break one of the least of these commandments you will be _____ in the kingdom.

He goes on to say that if our righteousness does not exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees we _____ enter the kingdom of heaven.

The model pray refers to _____ kingdom twice.

Matt 6:33-34 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Jesus says we must seek God's kingdom and His righteousness _____ we seek our physical needs.

Jesus' teaching was challenging to the point of seeming impossible. If I were there I'd be thinking, "There is _____ way I can do this."

Matt 19:23-25 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." 25 When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?"

It was not unusual for people who understood the demands of Jesus to believe there was _____ way to please Him. "With God all things are possible."

Matt 7:7-12 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If you then, being 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 is talking about help getting _____ the kingdom.
_____ who asks, seeks, and knocks will find kingdom entrance.
God provides _____ and refuses none!

Luke 11:10-13 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good

gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

God gives the _____ to those who ask.

John 15:5-8 *I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

Jesus says that _____ we abide in Him we will ask what we desire, and it will be done for us.

Rom 1:16-17 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*

Salvation is for _____ who believes. God is not going to deny those who ask, seek, and knock.

2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

God is a good father who wants _____ people to repent and have life.

2 Cor 12:8-10 *Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

Even though it is challenging, God's _____ helps those who ask, seek, knock, and abide.

Get Busy

Get busy asking, seeking, and knocking. In what ways do you seek the kingdom first?

Matt 7:12 *Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.*

Therefore... get busy _____ the golden rule.