

Sermon on the Mount Series
"Ask, Seek, Knock"
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Sermon on the Mount: An Encouragement to Prayer

Matthew 7:7-11 and Luke 11:9-13 Asking, Seeking, Knocking

Much of the Sermon has been about examining our own motives and conduct instead of looking at others.

It has been said that the Sermon on the Mount contains the most quoted, least applied words of Jesus.

Matthew 7 and Luke 11 together affirm the wonderful truth that there is divine wisdom and aid available for the asking.

Scripture repeatedly teaches us that:

1. God hears prayer.
1Peter 3:12 "For the eyes of the Lord *are* on the righteous, And His ears *are open* to their prayers; But the face of the Lord *is* against those who do evil.
2. Prayer unlocks the door of provision.
Mark 11:22-24 "So Jesus answered and said to them, 'Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them*, and you will have *them*.'"
3. God answers fervent prayers.
Luke 18:7 "And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?"
4. Persistent prayer by the righteous in faith will be answered.
1 John 5:14-15 "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."

Back to our texts:

Ask-Given
Seek-Find
Knock-Opened

This principle taught here is not limited to prayer alone.

Notice from the Text:

1. Jesus encourages prayer.
Matthew 7:7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”
Luke 11:9 “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”
2. Jesus gives us assurance.
Matthew 7:8 “For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”
Luke 11:10 “For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”
3. The Father will answer with Good gifts.
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 he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 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!”
Luke 11:11-13 “If a son asks for bread^a 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? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 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!”

Though not specifically stated here, the conditions of prevailing prayer taught elsewhere in the New Testament are implied here also:

1. Forgive others transgressions so the Heavenly Father can forgive yours.
Matthew 6:14-15 “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”
2. Ask in faith, not doubting.
James 1:6-7 “But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord...”
3. Ask with right motives.
James 4:3 “You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.
4. Ask according to His revealed will, and you can have confidence and boldness.

1 John 1:6-7 “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Don't lose heart, will reap in due time.

Galatians 6:9 “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

Pray and not faint.

Luke 18:1 “Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart...”

Pray without ceasing.

1Thessalonians 5:17 “...pray without ceasing...”

With all manner of prayer..

Ephesians 6:18-19 “...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel...”

Be anxious for nothing...with thanksgiving...and the peace of God will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”