

Sermon on the Mount – Ask. Seek. Knock.

Rich Dad Poor Dad author is 1.8 billion in debt.

Matthew 7:6 “Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.

Discernment. Jesus is talking about discernment.

- **Hebrews 5:14** But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.
- Do not give what is holy – You. You are holy. You have been set apart. Don’t give it to the world.
- Have discernment in your life. In where you go to church, who you are friends with, how you run your marriage, what job you have, how you spend your money, how you spend your time.
- Do not go to the world for advice in things that are holy to God.
 - Don’t get your love, acceptance, worth, security – anything from the world.

Why would we go to the world when all they can offer is what we already have in this world?

I used to think - if it is not a spiritual matter, then go to the world for wisdom. Now I realize that is dumb thinking – because everything is a spiritual matter!

But if we don’t go to the world, where do we go?

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

- *Ask-seek-knock*. These three words give great insight in how we go to God **when we are in need**. (We should always be in need).

- Prayer. It is a privilege to be able to pray. Other religions it is a practice. They have no God who hears. We have a God who responds.
 - **1 Peter 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."*
- Prayer is what powers our lives.
- We make requests of God by virtue of our relationship. Not by whether we deserve it. Grace.
- Prayer is not based on how we feel about ourselves, but on who God is!
- If we do not pray, it is because we do not believe in the power of prayer.

Ask Seek Knock

Ask

- **aiteo** - ask, beg, call for, crave, desire, require.
- Not to inquire. That is putho. That is actually too polite for what Jesus is saying here.

Prayer is access into the presence of the Almighty

- How desperate are we for God?
- Do we pray thinking if God gives, fine. If not I will figure it out.
- How many already have the plan in place before prayer happens?
- There is no plan B.
- Self-reliance is pride. Or fear that God won't respond.

1 John 5:14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

This is an asking that if God does not answer – you will keep asking. There is no other option.

1 Samuel 1:10; 12-13; 15 *[Hannah] was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish... ¹² And it happened, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli watched her mouth. ¹³ Now Hannah spoke*

in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk... ¹⁵ But Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I *am* a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

Colossians 4:12 Epaphras, who is *one* of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

Seek

– **zeteo** – to seek; specially to worship (God).

Seek involves hunger. Hunger for God – and going after that – is worship.

- **Have you ever lost something? Something important? You can't sleep thinking about it. You tear apart the house looking for it.**
- Have you ever prayed for something with that fervor?
- Story of losing Izzy

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

- Again, no plan B. This says to seek God and don't worry about your life. Hunger for God above everything else. And He will take care of you.
- But we usually pray – God, please take care of this need. Amen.

Deuteronomy 4:29 But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find *Him* if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.

- With all your heart and with all your soul.
- Mind, will, emotions, passion.
- We pray to God and say we cannot find Him. Have we prayed with all of our heart and soul?

Man in fallen state – **Romans 3:10-11** As it is written: "*There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.*

- Want to pray like an unbeliever – Don't seek God.

The idea of seeking God in prayer is that you will keep seeking until the answer is found.

- God may say yes, may say no, may say not yet. But He will say.
- **Luke 22:44** And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.
- What did Jesus pray? Let this cup pass from me. Did it? No.
 - But that was God's answer.

Knock

– **krouo** - to rap: — knock.

- What if the door isn't shut because it's not God's will, but because He wants you to knock?
- Things getting hard does not mean God changed His mind.
- Do not give up if God has led you somewhere just because it isn't easy. If God led you there, it must be God leading you away before you stop.

Jacob wrestled with God. Daniel prayed with fervor. Jesus sweated blood.

Paul and the thorn in the flesh pleads with the Lord three times for its removal.

- **2 Corinthians 12:7-9a** And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. ⁸ Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. ⁹ And He said to me...

Knocking implies persistence

- **Luke 11:5-8** And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; ⁶ for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; ⁷ and he will answer from within and say, "Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are

with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'? ⁸ I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.

- Who has ever knocked once?
- Knock until you get a response. If you know they are home you keep knocking till the door is answered.

The Response

Matthew 7:8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

- Anyone can pray. Not everyone prays like this. With passion. With intensity. With patience.
- When all we want is Jesus... Then things will be opened to you.

Maybe you have felt that God has not been answering your prayers.

- Is it time to enter a new level of fervency?
- Are we praying with the right motive?
 - **James 4:2b-3** ...yet you do not have because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.
- Are we praying according to His will?
- **1 John 5:14** Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

Daniel 9:2-4 in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years *specified* by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. ³ Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. ⁴ And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments,

- Daniel reads a prophecy that they would be released in 70 years. He realizes that the time is almost upon them, so what does he do? He prays. O lord hear, forgive, act... (Daniel 9)

This is praying His will. This is asking in His Name.

- **John 14:13-14** And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask anything in My name, I will do *it*.

Remember who you are praying to

Matthew 7:9-11 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!

- Prayer is based on a right understanding of who God is.
- God is a loving Father
- God is our provider
- God is not an angry tyrant
- God has the means to provide
- God is omniscient and omnipotent
- This is the God we serve.
- No matter how good of a parent you are, you are part of the fallen. God is infinitely better.
- Even a father in his sinful nature will give to his kids...

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

The Golden Rule

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

- The Golden Rule
- He says this is the standard of the law and prophets
- **Matthew 22:37-40** Jesus said to him, " *'You shall love the LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'*³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment. ³⁹ And *the second is* like it: "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*"⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

What does this have to do with prayer?

- What do you want to see come into your life – Sow that to others.
- This does not say you are fine if you do nothing. Do no harm. We do not just avoid evil, we do good.
- **Galatians 6:8-10** For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. ⁹ And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Any impact that we may have in the world is completely dependent on us deepening our relationship with Jesus.

Pray for yourself. Pray for others. Ask. Seek. Knock.