

Faith for the Present  
“Developing the Character of The Kingdom”  
Sunday, September 27, 2020

- \* All throughout The Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is teaching about this “new life in this New Kingdom!”
- \* He is constantly saying “the Law said” but “I say!” “I know you use to live by such and such standard, but I have raised the standard!”
- \* Then Christ contrasted the “false righteousness” of the Pharisees to the “true righteousness” of this New Kingdom!
- \* A righteousness that comes from change not control!
- \* We see Jesus telling us that we need to “focus on our own sin” rather than the “sin of others” as part of the true righteousness. ( remember the speck and log)
- \* To fully understand and absorb the truth of verses 7-12, we must realize this continuing theme!

Matthew 7:7-12 (TPT)

7 “Ask, and the gift is yours. Seek, and you’ll discover. Knock, and the door will be opened for you. 8 For every persistent one will get what he asks for. Every persistent seeker will discover what he longs for. And everyone who knocks persistently will one day find an open door. 9 “Do you know of any parent who would give his hungry child, who asked for food, a plate of rocks instead? 10 Or when asked for a piece of fish, what parent would offer his child a snake instead? 11 If you, imperfect as you are, know how to lovingly take care of your children and give them what’s best, how much more ready is your heavenly Father to give wonderful gifts to those who ask him?”

The Golden Rule

12 “In everything you do, be careful to treat others in the same way you’d want them to treat you, for that is the essence of all the teachings of the Law and the Prophets.”

- I. This passage is so much more than just getting your prayers answered! Consider the theme of the Sermon and context!
  - A. Remember, the general theme of The Sermon on the Mount is LIFE IN THE NEW KINGDOM!
    1. He covers things that should “be our attitudes” in what we call The Beatitudes!
      - a) Realize your utter desperation for God
      - b) Mourn for your fallen condition
      - c) Hunger to be right with God
      - d) Keep your heart pure and unmixed with the world
      - e) Make for peace in every situation in life
    2. He then says that by this behavior you will be salt and light” to them world! You will represent The Lord well and put a good taste in peoples mouth!
    3. He explains how the Law had the standard of not committing murder but that His standard was not hating!
    4. He said the Law said don’t commit adultery but His New Kingdom standard says not to lust in your heart!
    5. He says to love your enemy!

6. Jesus then explains that this New Kingdom behavior was meant to be lived from the inside out!! Inward CHANGE!
  7. He then begins to stress that all of these things are accomplished when we rely upon God and His work!
  8. Finally, He explains that we should not be “judging others need of God’s work in their lives, but rather focus on our own needs and God’s mercy and grace in our lives!
- B. This is where we find ourselves today...asking, seeking and knocking...for this new Godly character for this New life in God’s New Kingdom!
1. It is important to acknowledge context rather than merely seeing these comments as “getting prayers answered!”
  2. First, it can lead to disappointment and anger toward God because He didn’t give you what you asked for!
  3. Second, you miss the blessing of answered prayer when you ask for this new Godly character.

1 John 5:14 (NIV)

14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

4. Discerning God’s will is when The Holy Spirit leads us through the foundation of Scripture applied to our lives and our present situation!
5. Notice the “parallel scripture” of this part of the sermon in Luke:

## Luke 11:9-13 (NLT)

9 “And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. 11 “You fathers—if your children ask[a] for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? 12 Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! 13 So if you sinful people 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.”

6. Do you want The Spirit’s peace? Then ask, seek and knock!
7. Do you want to learn how to pray for your enemy? Then ask, seek and knock!
8. What part of this Sermon on the Mount do you need help with? Then ask, seek and knock!

## II. To Grow in the Character of this New Kingdom we MUST ASK FOR IT, SEEK IT AND BE PERSISTENT IN DESIRING IT!

- A. In the “original language” there is something called “imperatives.”
  1. The “imperative” used here is one of “continual action.”
  2. For example: Ask and keep on asking. Seek and keep on seeking. Knock and keep on knocking.
  3. Today, we might say it like this: How bad do you want it?
- B. Again, let’s go back to Lukes’ version of this message

Jesus preached!

Luke 11:5-9 (VOICE)

5 Imagine that one of your friends comes over at midnight. He bangs on the door and shouts, "Friend, will you lend me three loaves of bread? 6 A friend of mine just showed up unexpectedly from a journey, and I don't have anything to feed him." 7 Would you shout out from your bed, "I'm already in bed, and so are the kids. I already locked the door. I can't be bothered"? 8 You know this as well as I do: even if you didn't care that this fellow was your friend, if he keeps knocking long enough, you'll get up and give him whatever he needs simply because of his brash persistence! 9 So listen: Keep on asking, and you will receive. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened for you.

1. Persistence is needed because our our constant dealing with sin and inadequacies in our lives!
2. Like when we commit to loose a little weight and then drive through and get a chocolate shake!
3. Not that I've personally experienced that, but others have told me of their struggles!

C. This principle of asking seeking and knocking might look something like this! (show video)

Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)

13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.