

Relating to God as Father

SCRIPTURE 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 the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 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!”

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. The perspective of God is the key to this text. What is really at stake here is our perception of God. The emphasis here is not on the necessity of prayer but on the character of God. Read Psalm 50:15 and John 14:13. What two great truths does prayer exemplify that glorify God?

2. From the sermon, we understood that context is king in interpretation! And interpretation is key to application. Many have tried to make this a stand-alone passage. Christians need to remember this is a sermon Jesus is preaching. The sermon is filled with carefully developed statements that build on one another – logical in thought with transitions, questions, and resolutions. How does this passage (Matthew 7:7-11) relate to what precedes and follows it?

3. Read Matthew 7:7-8. “It pictures a situation of someone in want. ‘The one who asks, lacks something; the one who seeks, has lost something; the one who knocks is shut out’. Read Matthew 6:33, Matthew 13:45, Matthew 18:12, Psalm 9:10, Isaiah 55:6, Jeremiah 50:4, and Zephaniah 2:3. In regards to these verses in relation to Matthew 7:7, what is Jesus telling His audience that they lack, lost, and shut out from? How does this passage allude to the promises of God?

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4. Knock is nowhere used in Scripture for prayer...something unique is in view (not just persistence). Read the following verses: Luke 13:25, Matthew 7:13-14, Matthew 7:21-23, Matthew 25:10-12, John 10:7-9. Discuss with one another what these verses imply about the nature of what we seek.

5. Focus on what is underlined: Matthew 7:11 says, "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 of him!" The text literally says, "If you then, being evil," (NASB, KJV). Read the following verses: Genesis 6:5, Genesis 8:21, Ephesians 2:1-2, Titus 3:3, Matthew 15:19, Jeremiah 17:9. R.C. Sproul wisely said, "We are not sinners because we sin. We sin because we are sinners." After reading these passages of Scripture, how would you understand *Total Depravity*? If Christ called them evil even when they did good, what did He actually refer to?

6. Focus on what is underlined: Matthew 7:11 says, "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 of him!" Read Isaiah 49:15. How does the act of giving good gifts to their children point to the nature of God?

7. Focus on what is underlined: Matthew 7:11 says, "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 of him!" This is the only time the object of what God gives is identified. Many prosperity preachers today have twisted this passage of Scripture, teaching that God promises to bless us with wealth and prosperity if we ask for it. After studying the context and the big picture of this text in regards to the whole Sermon on the Mount, what are these "good things"?

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