

Lunch Time Bible Study
God With Us
A Study of Matthew: "Ask, Seek, Knock"
Matthew 7:7-11

April 10, 2018

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

I. Ask in Prayer

- a. Why did Jesus discuss prayer at this point in His message? These verses seem to be out of place, but they are not. Jesus knew that we are incapable of following His teachings without His help.
- b. On one hand we are human and we make mistakes. Only God can judge perfectly. Therefore we must pray and seek wisdom and direction. *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask God. (James 1:5)*
- c. On the other hand we need a righteous God to clean us up and to lead us in a righteous path. We are to always ask God for "character cleaning." (Psalm 139:23-24; 143:10)
- d. Six different times in six different ways Jesus almost begs us to pray. Ask, Seek, Knock are basically all one word in the Greek, which speaks to the intensity of Jesus' command.

II. Ask What?

- a. The Lord's Prayer teaches prayer *content*. "Ask, Seek, Knock" teaches prayer *responsibility*.
- b. We are not specifically told what to ask for, but Jesus tells his disciples, "You are to ask."
- c. This is the most encouraging biblical passage on the subject of prayer. It promises **unconditionally** that simple asking receives, simple seeking finds, and simple knocking gets in.
- d. Jesus further verifies the promise and states, **every** person asking *receives*, the seeker *finds*, and the person who knocks gets *openings*.
- e. The way to receive from the Father is to talk to Him. **Jesus has given us access to ask!**
- f. The irony is that we carry around heavy burdens of wishes that never become *askings*. Christians are reluctant to talk about problems with the Father, because they don't want to bother Him.
- g. *O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.* –Joseph M. Scriven
- h. Think about it. We talk to our loved ones about things that bother us more than once and often times they do not have the resources to solve the problem. Why not continually ask the Father?
- i. There are two primary ways by which the Lord guides His church and believers on the earth. Both contain His Spirit, His Word and our prayer.
 1. The Scriptures provide universal guidance to all Christ's churches/believers around the world.
 2. Prayer is the tool used for every church/believer to receive specific guidance in light of Scriptures.

III. God Only Gives "Good Things"

- a. A good, good Father only knows to give good things. God is good "all the time", therefore He can only give what is *good*. List three good things: _____, _____, _____.
- b. God is always ready to give His asking children what is good for them.
- c. God want us to engage in "*good askings*." Every "good thing" in Scripture is something we can ask for in prayer. (the myth about praying for patience) (Read Galatians 5:22)
- d. The Father does not give all things to His asking children, only good things.

IV. Thoughts and Considerations for Action

- a. *Do we have trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.*
- b. *Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer. Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!* -Scriven
- c. Do you want peace? Ask! Do you want strength in your body? Ask!
- d. Don't lay down and "take it", but "take it" to the Lord in prayer. Do your believer's duty, ASK!