

# Ask Him

## Introduction

This world is filled with evil, wickedness, sin, pain and suffering.

I recently heard of a young dad who lost his life at the age of 36 with a blood clot through the lung leaving behind an 8 year old son.

I watch TV and see the wars going on in the middle east, and Ukraine.

I switch on the news channels and see the corruption, the hatred, the racism everywhere in our country.

And I ask a question is God good, does He care for His people?

Our passage this morning reveals God as a good God that deeply cares for His people.

## Historical Background

Mathew had a twofold purpose in writing the book.

- To prove that Jesus is the Messiah King
- To explain God's kingdom program to his readers.

The Sermon on the mount reveals how those in His kingdom, His disciples should live and act

In Mat 5:2-12 Jesus began His sermon by describing the qualities of a disciple that brings joy

In Matt 4:13-16 He revealed the core ministry of the disciple.

In Mt 5:17-20 He revealed the foundation for the disciples ministry.

In Mt 5:21-48 Jesus revealed the need for perfect righteousness.

In Mt 6:1-18 Jesus focussed on the acts of righteousness revealing the importance of correct heart motives.

In Mt 6:19-24 He confronted the materialistic heart

In Mt 6:25-34 He confronted the worrying heart

In Mt 7:1-6 Jesus confronted hypocritical judging heart

In Mat 7:7-12 Jesus teaches His disciples to ask the Father for their needs.

## Passage

### **Matthew 7:7-12 LSB**

<sup>7</sup> "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

<sup>8</sup> "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

<sup>9</sup> "Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone?

<sup>10</sup> "Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he?

<sup>11</sup> "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 what is good to those who ask Him!

<sup>12</sup> "Therefore, in all things, whatever you want people to do for you, so do for them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

## Proposition

4 Principles that should encourage you walk in dependence of the Father as a disciple of Jesus.

1. Asking and giving vs 7-8
2. Parental giving vs 9-10
3. God's giving vs 11
4. Your giving vs 12

### 1. Asking and giving vs 7-8

#### **Matthew 7:7-8 LSB**

<sup>7</sup> "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

<sup>8</sup> "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

The first principle of discipleship relates to what you do when following Jesus.

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

The grammar reveals that to ask, seek and knock are all commands that you should obey as a lifestyle.

It emphasizes the need for repeated effort.

As a disciple of Jesus , you should keep on asking, keep on seeking and keep on knocking.

Dont lose steam.

Continually and repeatedly approach God.

There is a cause and effect action revealed in this passage

The effects are God will respond.

It will be given, it will be found and it will be opened, which are all future predictions and are in the mood of reality, indicating it will really happen.

You wont ask and it wont be given

You wont seek and not find

You wont knock and it will not be opened

This is the God given priviledge to the disciples of Jesus.

Mathew emphasis is this passage is seen through the repeated term **ask** in vs 7-11.

THis is what He wanted to highlight.

Aks = GK term “aiteo” which means ask, request, beg, demand

Of the meanings of the term most translators agree that ask is intended.

Now the three images:

- **asking** for something that another will provide for,
- **seeking** for what may be lost, or for what location is unknown
- **knocking** to gain admission to something

Is bound together by the **pursuit of something.**

Its about when you venture out with God.

What will that intimate relationship look like.

**Asking** naturally connects with prayer.

You will be talking with God.

**Matthew 6:8 LSB**

<sup>8</sup> "Therefore, do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

**Seeking** connects well with striving and devoting effort for a goal

You will be pursuing His rule in your life and be pursuing His character and commands- seeking to obey

**Matthew 6:33 LSB**

<sup>33</sup> "But seek first **His kingdom and His righteousness**, and all these things will be added to you.

**Knocking** might relate to Mt 7:13 going through an entrance like the narrow gate.

The disciple would want God to open doors.

What doors?

The close context speaks of the door of salvation.

**Matthew 7:13 LSB**

<sup>13</sup> "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.

**John 10:7-9 LSB**

<sup>7</sup> So Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **I am the door of the sheep.**

<sup>8</sup> "All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

<sup>9</sup> "**I am the door**; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

**Hebrews 10:19-20 LSB**

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to **enter the holy places** by the blood of Jesus,

<sup>20</sup> by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,

The needs to have gone through the door of salvation.

YOu cannot follow the narrow road if you are not first saved.

**Psalms 118:20 LSB**

<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of Yahweh; The righteous will enter through it.

BUT then having gone through that door, you can have fellowship with Jesus and be with Jesus.-21

**Revelation 3:20-21 LSB**

<sup>20</sup> 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.

<sup>21</sup> 'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

The walk of a Disciple of Christ involves:

- asking Him to meet your needs .
- seeking His kingdom and His righteousness, pursuing His rule and character
- knocking at the Savior.(picture of salvation that leads to fellowship with Him)

The Key principle:

Run to your Father

Pursue His rule and character

Pursue salvation and sanctification

The life of a disciple is the life of:

- Prayer
- Studying God's word (pursuing His kingdom and His righteousness)
- Pursuing salvation or living out salvation.(Phil 1:27)

## 8 "For

Vs 8 begins with the term for indicating the reason why you should ask, seek and knock.

**everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."**

The Disciple of Jesus can and should expect a response from God with regard to those commands.

The grammar reveals the asking one will as a timeless fact receive and the seeking one as a timeless fact receive and the one knocking, in the future the door will be opened for them.

This does not mean that God is this magic Jini in a bottle or

and any person can come to Him like with a blank check filling asking Him to fill in the Millions.

Everyone in context here refers to the disciple of Jesus.

Jesus was teaching His disciples Mt 5:1-2.

There were many onlookers who were not His disciples, like Pharisees and Sadducees and Jewish people from that area and even among His disciples was

Judas who would later betray Jesus.

The promise of God is for a disciple of Jesus, specifically later you learn those who's hearts are circumcised.

### **Deuteronomy 30:6 LSB**

<sup>6</sup> "Moreover Yahweh your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your seed, to love Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.

If you are a believer then

- You have already knocked and Jesus opened your heart to respond to the gospel,
- God is your Father
- Christians are your brothers and sisters
- Your part of the family of God.

And as family member, you may freely ask your Father, seek His will, emulate His character.

## **Applications**

### **Asking**

The wider context of the Bible teaches us that God answers those who obey Him and do what pleases God.

### **1 John 3:22 LSB**

<sup>22</sup> and whatever we ask we receive from Him, **because we keep His commandments** and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

It also implies asking according to the will of God.

### **1 John 5:14–15 LSB**

<sup>14</sup> And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, **if we ask anything according to His will**, He hears us.

<sup>15</sup> And if we know that He hears us *in* whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

### **Seeking**

The second concern of a disciple's life is the pursuit of God's reign and rule in your life, which would imply:

- loving obeying and trusting Him.
- Seeking the things above (Col 3:2-3)
- Walking by the Spirit (Gal 5:16)

### **Knocking**

The knocking would involve testing to see if you are in the faith.

## **2 Corinthians 13:5 LSB**

<sup>5</sup> Test yourselves *to see* if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize about yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?

If you are not in the faith, then repent and turn to Jesus as Savior and Lord.

- Trust Him
- Trust in His death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sin

But if you are in the faith

- Yield to Him as King of Kings
- You live your life worthy of the gospel

## **Philippians 1:27 LSB**

<sup>27</sup> **Only live your lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ**, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear about your circumstances, that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind contending together for the faith of the gospel,

The second principle of discipleship is learning from human or parental relationships.

## 2. Parental giving vs 9-10

### **Matthew 7:9-10 LSB**

<sup>9</sup> "Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone?

<sup>10</sup> "Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he?

**"9 "Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? 10 "Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he?"**

- Explanation

Jesus gave a short **parable** to illustrate God's heart to care for His children.

Bread and fish are kosher (meals that are acceptable according to Jewish dietary laws as prescribed in the book of Leviticus) meals for Jews.

Whereas a stone is not edible and a snake is not Kosher.

### **Leviticus 11:12 LSB**

<sup>12</sup> 'Whatever in the water does not have fins and scales is detestable to you.

The snake would be unclean to a Jew.

The Point Jesus was making was that a natural Father would not ignore the physical or spiritual needs of his son.

Jesus was building the argument that natural parents do what is good for their children.

He is seeking to contrast human parenthood with divine parenthood.

There normally is an inbuilt care of parents for their children's basic needs.

That inbuilt care should remind you of God's incredible care.

## Application

You and I can see something of God's care reflected even in our earthly parents.

Now some of us may struggle if we had sinful parents, yet the fact that you're still alive, means they did do something right.

The way Jesus talks should also remind you that as a believer you're part of a Family.

And in a family there is care and concern for the good of others.

The Third principle of walking as a disciple with God is the superior care of God.

## 3. God's giving vs 11

**Matthew 7:11 LSB**

<sup>11</sup> "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 what is good to those who ask Him!

### If you then

Reveals a concluding statement based on the parable that Jesus had just shared.

### **being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children**

Human parents even at their best are evil in comparison to their heavenly Father.

### **how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!**

### **Father**

Jews understood that Israel as a nation was called the son of God.

**Exodus 4:22–23 LSB**

<sup>22</sup> "Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says Yahweh, "**Israel is My son**, My firstborn.

<sup>23</sup> "So I said to you, 'Let My son go that he may serve Me'; but you have refused to



let him go. Behold, I will kill your son, your firstborn." ' ' "

### **Deuteronomy 32:6 LSB**

<sup>6</sup> "Do you thus repay Yahweh, O people who are wickedly foolish and without wisdom? Is not **He your Father who has bought you**? He has made you and established you.

Jesus however would later state that even though they believed that God was their Father, that if they did not love Jesus or heard His word, their Father in fact was Satan.

### **John 8:42–44 LSB**

<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come of Myself, but He sent Me.

<sup>43</sup> "Why do you not understand what I am saying? *It is* because you cannot hear My word.

<sup>44</sup> "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

But Jesus point is ultimately if you are infact a child of God the Father, God will give what is good to those who ask Him.

The Gospel of Luke aplied what is good more specifically to the HS

### **Luke 11:13 LSB**

<sup>13</sup> "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?"

Luke has a more specific application, while Mathew records the more general principle as good things, which would include the HS but is brioder than that.

Jesus used what is called the rabbinic "kal v Chomer" argument.

The same argument used earlier in His sermon.

### **Matthew 6:30 LSB**

<sup>30</sup> "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, *will* **He not much more clothe you**? You of little faith!

Since God cares for the grass, that is so fleeting, **how much more** will God not clothe you.

In the same way in Mt 7:11, since even a sinful earthly father faithfully answers and cares for his natural son, **how much more would the perfect, holy and God Father care for His spiritual children.**

God has no limitless resources, unlimited power, wisdom , knowledge and goodness that He willingly may give to His children that ask.

## Good

God gives what is good.

Good= agathos= good benevolent, profitable, useful, beneficial.

The grammar indicates this to be a fact.

God will give what is good to His children.

But specifically those who ask Him.

This is a timeless fact.

God does not give what is not good.

Its not like the aunt that gives you the weirdest gift, that your not sure what it is and you know for a fact you will never use it.

If sinful human fathers so willingly and freely give their children the basics of life, God will infinitely outdo them in measure and benefit.

Just consider some of God's good things He gives:

Spiritual blessings

### **Ephesians 1:3 LSB**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

Future glory

### **Romans 8:18 LSB**

<sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Living hope, eternal inheritance

### **1 Peter 1:3–4 LSB**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

<sup>4</sup> to *obtain* an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and unfading, having been kept in heaven for you,

## Application

As believer: ask Him,

Ask Him to give what is good in your life and for others.

You may boldly approach God in prayer

When you navigate life's hardships:

- the trials,
- The sufferings
- the economic pressures

Ask God for wisdom, ask Him for what is good.

And trust God will work all things together for God for those who love Him.

#### **Romans 8:28 LSB**

<sup>28</sup> And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to *His* purpose.

The final principle we see is that since God gives what is good to you if you ask Him, so do good to others....love them.

The Disciple of Jesus is other person centered.

## 4. Your giving vs 12

#### **Matthew 7:12 LSB**

<sup>12</sup> "Therefore, in all things, whatever you want people to do for you, so do for them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

### **"12 "Therefore,**

Indicates a conclusion or a summary both of this section but as well, it rounds off the main body of the Sermon on the Mount.

From vs 13 Jesus presents a series of commands that serve as an application to His Sermon.

The next phrase commentators call the golden rule.

**in all things, whatever you want people to do for you, so do for them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."**

This golden rule one can find many versions of this rule among

Zoroastrianism, Confucianism, Buddhist literature, ancient Indian literature, Greek literature from the time of Herodotus, and Jewish sources at least from the time of the *Letter of Aristeas* and of the Greek version of Sirach (NIGTC)

The rule is found both in positive and negative forms.

There is a famous Talmudic story of Rabbi Hillel who was asked to summarise the Torah while standing on one foot. He wanted a quick answer.

Hillel said.

"What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. This is the whole *Torah*"

This is the golden rule but in the negative.

Jesus described this in the positive.

How you want people to treat you, so treat them.

It summarizes the sermon

It summarises the law and the Prophets

Its a paraphrase of what Moses wrote.

#### **Leviticus 19:18 LSB**

<sup>18</sup> 'You shall not take vengeance, and you shall not keep *your anger* against the sons of your people, but **you shall love your neighbor as yourself**; I am Yahweh.

Its what Jesus would later answer in response to a Scribes question.

#### **Matthew 22:36–39 LSB**

<sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"

<sup>37</sup> And He said to him, "'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'

<sup>38</sup> "This is the great and foremost commandment.

<sup>39</sup> "And the second is like it, '**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.**'

All 613 commandments can be summarized by this principle, also called the principle of love.

Its motivated not by selfishness.

Its motivated by the goodness of God.

Its motivated by God giving whats good to His children.

Its motivated by the gospel.

Its motivated by Love and modeled by Christ,

Only God's children can truly have right relationships with others, because their hearts are changed, they are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and their commanded by Jesus to love selflessly considering to do what is good for others.

#### **Philippians 2:1–4 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,

<sup>2</sup> fulfill my joy, that **you think the same way**, by maintaining the same love, *being* united in spirit, thinking on one purpose,

<sup>3</sup> doing nothing from selfish ambition or vain glory, but with humility of mind

regarding one another as more important than yourselves,

<sup>4</sup> not *merely* looking out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

This is Jesus's way of thinking and this should be every follower of Jesus's way of thinking.

## Application

If you are a disciple of Jesus, your calling is to love God and love people.

Practically it means you should think about what loving that person would look like.

If you are heading to an eternity in hell, you would want people to warn you and share what is necessary to save you from hell. (evangelism)

If you have gone wayward living in sin, you would want people to confront you and call you to repent.

If you see another person in need, you would meet that need as best you can, with dignity and care.

## Conclusion

### Psalm 9:10 LSB

<sup>10</sup> And those who know Your name will put their trust in You, For You, **O Yahweh, have not forsaken those who seek You.**

### Psalm 107:1 LSB

<sup>1</sup> Oh give thanks to Yahweh, **for He is good**, For His lovingkindness endures forever.

### Psalm 107:8–9 LSB

<sup>8</sup> Let them give thanks to Yahweh for His lovingkindness, And for His wondrous deeds to the sons of men!

<sup>9</sup> For He has satisfied the thirsty soul, And the hungry soul **He has filled with what is good.**