



SERMON

Asking & Expecting (Matt 7:7-12)

DATE

Jun 3rd, 2018

1. How would you describe your comfort level with presenting your requests to God? Does it feel like presenting a request to a cold boss? Or does it feel like asking a big favour from a distant acquaintance? Or does it feel like requesting a cup of water from a good father?

THREE POWER PRODUCING CHALLENGES FOR OUR LIVES:

2. ASK FOR WISDOM

a. Actually pray for wisdom.

Read Matt 7:7. This verse is often misinterpreted to say, "I can just ask God for anything and he'll just give it to me!" By examining the context of Matt 7:1-5, how can we be confident that verse 7 is talking about asking for wisdom? How should this truth redirect the focus of our day-to-day prayers?

HEART CHECK: Matt 7:7 has a simple command: JUST ASK! Do you literally and actively pray for wisdom specifically? When was the last time you prayed for wisdom?

b. Earnestly pray with sincerity.

Matt 7:7 continues by asking us to seek. Pastor Jason challenged us by pointing out that some of our biggest problems are because we are earnestly seeking the wisdom of the world, instead of seeking the wisdom of God. How can you detect when we are seeking wisdom in the wrong place? How can your small group help you detect this?

HEART CHECK: What are you earnestly seeking to give wisdom and insight into your life's problems?

3. EXPECT AN ANSWER

- a. Read Matt 7:8. According to this verse, what is the reward for those who ask, seek and knock? According to this verse, is this reward merely "probable" or is it a certainty?

Read James 1:5. How does this verse confirm and furnish the truth in Matt 7:8? How does this transform our perspective towards asking for wisdom?

b. **God is our good & heavenly father: He lovingly denies our short-sighted requests**

This past weekend, we saw the following Martyn Lloyd-Jones quote:

MARTYN-LLOYD JONES

"I thank God that He is not prepared to do anything that I may chance to ask Him, and I say that as the result of my own past experience. In my past life, I, like all others, have often asked God for things, and asked God to do things, which at the time I wanted very much and which I believed were the very best things for me. But now, standing at this particular juncture in my life and looking back, I say that I am profoundly grateful to God that He did not grant me certain things for which I asked, and that He shut certain doors in my face. At the time I did not understand, but I know now, and I am grateful to God for it."

According to Lloyd-Jones, why would it be a disaster if we got *everything* we wanted? Do you agree? How does this truth help us to rest when God doesn't give us what we ask for?

HEART CHECK: Is your heart upset because God hasn't given you what you asked for recently? Speak this truth to your heart to give it perspective.

c. **God is our good & heavenly father: He will never withhold from you what is good**

Read Matt 7:9-10. These verses paint the picture of God's care for our requests as analogous to the care that a loving, providing father would have for his children. How does this vivid picture completely change how we approach God? Read Phil 4:6-7. How does this passage come to life given the picture of a loving, providing father?

d. **God is our good & heavenly father: He does far better than even the best earthly father.**

Read Matt 7:11. In this verse, Jesus employs his common "how much more" line of thinking. What truth is he trying to drive home? How does this truth truly magnify "how much more" awesome God is than we usually think?

HEART CHECK: If this truth (God is our good & heavenly father) were truly alive in my heart today, how would my prayer life be changed? How would my peace be transformed?

"All shall work together for good;
everything is needful that He sends;
nothing can be needful that He withholds."

~ John Newton ~