

Sermon Notes

Mt.7.7-12 “KINGDOM CHARACTER – Start Praying” Matthew Series: ‘THE KING IS COMING’ #91 August 16, 2020

There are two ways to approach the Sermon on the Mount:

#1 - is proudly, believing it to be a list of humanly attainable, moral precepts.

#2 – with a deep sense of the need for God’s grace.

God is not a celestial slot machine.

A text without a context is a pretext. The Sermon sets down what is expected of kingdom citizens.

This text is not carte blanche for our material desires - Jesus teaches us to pray for our spiritual lives.

I. WE ARE TO PRAY WITH PERSISTENCE (vv.7, 8)

- ✚ “Ask” implies asking for a conscious need.
 - ✚ The next step, “seek,” involves asking but adds action.
 - ✚ “Knock” includes asking plus acting plus persevering—
- The aurist imperative gives one definite command,
 - The present imperative, commands continuous action—“
- Do we persist in our prayers for spiritual growth???
 - Do we “ask ... seek ... knock” for a pure mind?
 - Do we keep on knocking for a forgiving spirit or for the removal of an angry or critical spirit?

We pray passionately for our spiritual development only when we sense our need for God’s grace.

God’s kingdom requires righteousness—perfection;

- ❖ We are called to be holy as He is holy (Le.19.2).
- ❖ We know that though we do good things, we are evil—
- ❖ that all of us, Jews & Greeks, are under sin (Ro.3.9).
- ❖ The sight of God’s perfect standard & our sin drives us to our knees & to His grace.
- ❖ We learn that there is no hope apart from His unearned favor.
- ❖ There is no hope for spiritual improvement apart from His continuing love & mercy.

The one who sees this rejoices when he reads Jesus’ invitation to “ask ... seek ... knock.”

We are to ask & keep on asking for those things that will make us more like Jesus.

The treasures Christ gives are eternally ours & eternally satisfying.

He will not give it to us until we are ready.

II. WE ARE TO PRAY WITH CONFIDENCE (vv.7–11)

God gives greater quality & quantity than we imagine in our prayers.

God will give us anything that is good for us spiritually ...

CONCLUSION:

Do we want the character of the kingdom in our lives?

God will give us anything we ask for that is good for us **spiritually**;

What spiritual qualities do you lack but would like to have?

2. Pray passionately for them—keep asking, seeking, knocking.

3. Have confidence that God your Father will give them to you.