

**Mt.7.12 “KINGDOM CHARACTER- Start Loving”**  
**Matthew Series: ‘THE KING IS COMING’ #93**  
**August 30, 2020**

**Reasons for obeying the command to love others as ourselves:**

**I. GOD’S PROMISE TO HIS SAINTS [CHILDREN] DEMANDS IT vv.7–8**

Our heavenly Father sets the example in His **generosity** to us.

The Golden **Rule** (v.12) is the bridge between a **critical** spirit & spiritual growth.

[These considerations drive us to call on the Lord.]

God’s **wisdom** is among our greatest needs - The means for achieving is petitioning **prayer**. (Ja.1.5).

God gives enough truth for us to be **responsible**, but enough mystery for us to be **dependent**.

Verses vv.7–8 are not a blank check for just anyone to present to God:

- ✚ **First** of all, the promise is **valid** only for believers.
  - ❖ Two overriding relationships in Matthew are those of God’s **kingdom** & God’s **family**.
    - The kingdom concept deals with **rule**, &
    - The family concept deals with **relationship**.

The two greatest realities of Christian truth are that God is our **Father** & Christians are our **brothers**. (Gal. 6:10; Ep.2.19; I Jn.1.2–3; 2.1, 13; 3.1; 4.14; I Jn.3.10; 5.2; I Jn.2.9–11; 3.10–12; 4.20;).

✚ **Second**, the one who claims this promise must be living in **obedience** to his Father. (I Jn.3.22).

✚ **Third**, our **motive** in asking must be right. (Ja.4.3)

✚ **Fourth**, we must be **submissive** to His will. (6.24; Ja.1.7–8; I Jn.5.14).

- ❖ To have **confidence** in answered prayer on any other basis is to have
  - a false & presumptuous confidence that the Lord makes no promise to honor.

✚ **Fifth**, is **perseverance**, suggested by the present imperative tenses of **ask**, **seek**, & **knock**.

- The idea is that of **continuance** & constancy:
- We also see a progression of **intensity** in the three verbs;
  - simple **asking**
  - aggressive **seeking**
  - still more aggressive **knocking**.

The progression in intensity also suggests that our sincere requests to the Lord are not to be **passive**.

**II. GOD’S PATTERN FOR HIS SAINTS [CHILDREN] DEMANDS IT vv.9–11**

God’s **nature** should be reflected in our lives.

It is not natural for a father to ignore either the **physical** or the **spiritual** needs of his son.

There is no **limit** to what God will give to us when we ask in obedience & according to His will.

God will infinitely outdo them in **measure** & in **benefit**.

We should so treat others well because we are those who bear His **likeness**.

**III. GOD’S PURPOSE FOR HIS SAINTS [CHILDREN] DEMANDS IT v.12**

No capacity within an **unbeliever** to love this way exists.

They cannot **sustain** selflessness - they do not have the divine resource.

How we **treat** others is not to be determined by how we,

- **expect** them to treat us or
- by how we think they **should** treat us, but
- by how we **want** them **to treat** us.

Selfless love serves in the **way** it likes being served—  
...whether it ever receives such service or not.