

March 29, 2020
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Kingdom Come
Ask, Seek, Knock
Matthew 7:7-11

Introduction Question:

- 1) Consider your relationship with your earthly father—especially as you were growing up, but also as an adult. In what ways has your earthly Dad influenced how you view your heavenly Father?

Sermon Questions:

- 2) A certain TV preacher said “If you just have faith, ask for whatever you want...and God will give it to you! That’s what Jesus said!” Can you carefully evaluate the truth and falsehood of that statement in the light of today’s scripture and teaching?
- 3) We should come to God with “shameless audacity!” That’s amazing! Other translations say “persistence” or “impudence.” Can you give an example of when you came to God this way and received a positive answer? What holds you back from consistently having that audacity?
- 4) Tim Keller said: “God will either give us what we ask or give us what we would have asked if we knew everything he knows.” Consider Luke 22:42 where Jesus says “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” Can you think of something you have prayed for and not gotten — that you are now glad you did not get ? How are you growing in being able to submit to God’s will when it does not match your own will?

Application Question:

- 5) Pastor Dave exhorted us to press on in our prayer lives. He prefers having a prayer journal but said we should find an approach that would work for each of us. Whether you have more time on your hands because of the quarantining going on or you are under more stress, this may be God’s gift for you to really learn to pray. Can you carve out 15-20 minutes? Listen to God speak first through Scripture or Lectio Divina, and then speak to him. Remember, your Father in heaven loves giving good gifts to those who ask him.

Lectio Divina:

1. Reading: Have someone from your group read the passage aloud.
2. Meditation: Spend an entire minute in complete silence, contemplating what was just read. Feel free to re-read the passage or jot down thoughts/highlight what stuck out to you.
3. Sharing: At the leader's signal, invite group members to share their insights for about 5 minutes.
4. Repeat: After the 5 minutes are over, repeat the process 2 more times. Listen/read like you haven't heard this passage before. If there are longer moments of silence, the leader can prompt discussion with the following questions:
 1. What did you hear and what seems important?
 2. What is the Holy Spirit impressing on you?
 3. What does it make you think of from your life?

Luke 11:5-13

⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶ a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.' ⁷ And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity^[e] he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

⁹ "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

¹¹ "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

² He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. ³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

⁴ "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"