

The Uncommon Kingdom: Ask, Seek, Knock

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Matthew 7:7-12

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Discussion and Reflection Guide

This passage in Matthew 7 needs to be looked at with the right emphasis

Read and discuss Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV)

⁷ “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

*Compare and contrast putting the emphasis of this verse on ‘given, find, opened’ and ‘ask, seek, knock’.

*Have you experienced this verse explained as getting what we ask for?

Prayer is not a direct action

Jesus implies that some doors remain shut however much you knock.

*What is the importance of understanding that prayers are requests?

*When is a time that you have experienced not getting what you want in prayer? When was this hard to reconcile? Have you, at some point, understood it to be for the best?

*Does remembering that Jesus just taught about the way to pray (Matthew 6) shift the ways we ask, seek, and knock?

We don’t always know what’s best, but we can trust God to be wise in His answers

Read and discuss Matthew 7:9-11 (NIV)

⁹ “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹ 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 good gifts to those who ask him!

*What comes to mind when you think about God?

*How has your earthly father impacted your picture of our heavenly Father, both positively and negatively?

*How would a true picture of God that is not tainted by your own false impressions or misconceptions change your relationship with Him?

Jesus exemplified this relationship passage when he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane

Read and discuss Matthew 26:38-44 (NIV)

³⁸ Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

⁴⁰ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. ⁴¹ “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

⁴² He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

⁴³ When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

*What do you notice Jesus asking, seeking, and knocking? How do you see the Father ultimately giving a good gift?

*Where does your heart need to move towards this type of relationship to change the way you interact with God?

*Do you sense some realignment towards His kingdom is needed in your asking, seeking, and knocking?

*What do you sense the Spirit is saying to you about the gifts He is giving you?