



THE SERMON

on the Mount

Ask, Seek, Knock

The Sermon on the Mount Recap...

- Introduction to the Kingdom of God
 - The upside-down kingdom
 - Pivotal Statement: “Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the Scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” – Matt 5:20
 - A new kind of righteousness... (2 motivational systems)
 1. Scribes & Pharisees: I obey, therefore I’m accepted
 2. Disciple of Jesus: I’m accepted, therefore I obey
 - Last 2 weeks... Anxiety (treasuring things on earth, illusion of control & misplaced security) and Judging others

Matthew 7:7-12

⁷ “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ⁹ Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

¹² So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

Ask, Seek, Knock

- What does Jesus mean?
- Is this a formula for getting what we want from God?
- Why does God say “no” to us, if this statement is true?
- James 4:2b-3... You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.
- Remember previously in the sermon... God knows what you need before you ask... So why ask?
- God desires to have an intimate relationship with his children

Ask, Seek, Knock

1. Posture Matters

- Humility is essential when approaching God
- Asking requires us to acknowledge our need
- God desires us to seek him with all our hearts and to “seek first his kingdom” rather than our own selfish desires
- Jer 29:13... You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.
- Because of Christ, we can approach God with boldness, but humility ALWAYS precedes our confidence

Ask, Seek, Knock

1. Posture Matters

2. Perspective Matters

- We need to understand who God is and who we are
- God is a good Father, a perfect Father, and we are his children who he loves deeply
- When the disciple of Jesus asks, it is always with the understanding that God loves us as a Father loves his children, he always hears us, he knows what we need before we ask, he is working for his glory and our benefit, and he is completely trustworthy
 - This is why we can be fully assured that even though we don't understand why he chooses to say "no", he can be fully trusted

Ask, Seek, Knock

1. Posture Matters

2. Perspective Matters

3. Persistence Matters

- The idea of knocking implies persistence and urgency
- Luke 11:5-10

Luke 11:5-10

⁵ And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; ⁷ and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? ⁸ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹ And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

Ask, Seek, Knock

1. Posture Matters

2. Perspective Matters

3. Persistence Matters

- The idea of knocking implies persistence and urgency
- Luke 11:5-8
- God desires us to ask lots!
- He does not tire from our requests as our earthly fathers do
- But, be assured, that God will not grant something that is harmful to you when your posture is right and your perspective is correct!

The Golden Rule

- Roman Emperor Alexander Severus (A.D. 222-235)
- Jesus sums up the body of his message with the intent of the law in a “nutshell”... The spirit or intent of the law
- Matt 5:17... Jesus says that he will fulfill the law
- Similar to his statement “Love you neighbor as yourself”
- The guide to human relational flourishing is found in treating others as you want to be treated
- Our drift is always towards selfishness and our own benefit
- Imagine a place where this was lived out rather than thought of as a nice saying.
- All of our relational problems are a result of disregarding the spirit of the law

What is Jesus communicating to us today?

- 1. God desires close relationship with you**
- 2. God cares deeply for you and wants you to remember that he is your Father**
- 3. God desires us to live in harmony with one another**

Romans 8:12-17

¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.