

## Sermon on the Mount Part 19

### Persistence!

Matthew 7:7-12

#### I. What Jesus is not saying

- Praying is not a way to obtain anything and everything that you want
  - Immediate Context
    - Jesus is speaking with His disciples. These disciples had denied self to follow Jesus
    - God will give good things from heaven
    - God determines what the good things that are given
  - Broad Context
    - Prayer does not always get answered the way we want it to. James 4:3 says that in our prayers we ask “a miss” or with wrong intentions.
    - I John 5:14 “And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, he hears us.”

#### II. Persistence is the key (verse 7)

- Ask, Seek, and Knock
  - In the Greek language these are present verbs. This means we could translate them the following way. Keep on asking, keep on seeking, and keep on knocking.
  - We must have a relentless pursuit of God in our walk of faith
    - Many times there are those who will seek God only out of desperation.
    - They have taken a lifetime to get themselves into their current situation and they are only willing to wait on God a few weeks or maybe months to create the change in them they will need to last them a lifetime.
    - Israel’s faithfulness is like the morning dew Hosea 6:4 “O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? For your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goes away.”
    - What a picture of the persistent, relentless, pursuit of God in our country today. It is like the morning clouds and dew...it is only here for a short time and then gone.

#### III. The goal for persistence (8-11)

- Matthew 7:11 Jesus said that he would give His followers good things.
  - Read Luke 11:9-13
    - The Holy Spirit is that “Good Gift” that leads to all good things.
  - Ephesians 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.”
- The goal of our persistence in prayer by asking, seeking, and knocking is that we will live a Holy Spirit filled life!
- We are promised in our persistent asking, seeking and knocking the following Good Gifts.
  - Fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23
  - Power of the Spirit Acts 1:8 and Acts 2
  - Gifts of the Spirit I Corinthians 12:1-11
  - **You need to realize today that the Fruit of the Spirit, Power of the Spirit, and Gifts of the Spirit are for “YOU TODAY”**
- Do you see these areas of your life growing with consistency?
  - Is the fruit of the spirit evident in your life on a consistent basis or is it sparatic?
  - Are your living your life empowered by the Holy Spirit on a daily basis?
    - Are you personally empowered to do ministry and share in the Great Commission as given in Matthew 28:18-20
    - Are you empowered to live above your circumstances or do they always get you down wondering what it would be like if you had what someone else had?
  - Do you see the Gifts of the Spirit evident in your life and are you using them?
- Ephesians 2:10 “For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hat before ordained that we should walk in them.”
- Jesus died friend so that you could have these “Good Gifts”

#### IV. The Golden Rule (Verse 12)

- Let us look at this verse in light of everything we have talked about this morning.
  - Jesus says “Therefore” which literally means “because of everything I have just taught you” apply the Golden rule.
  - So friend how do you treat someone when they are persistent in their asking, seeking, and knocking.
    - Are you able to give good gifts to them that ask?
    - Do seek that your fellow brother or sister in Christ would walk in the Fruit of the Spirit, Power of the Spirit, and Gifts of the Spirit?
    - Do you desire the best for your fellow man?
    - Do you consistently look for the best in brother or sister in Christ or is there the tendency to always find fault with even the smallest little detail?

