

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

talk it
over

KEY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 7.7-12

PURSUE GOD

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

"Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 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! So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

In the previous chapter, Jesus gave us an example of how we should pray, and the attitude we should take in order to please God, the Father, when we pray (Matt 6.5-15). We learn prayer is not to be used as leverage to promote ourselves, or even a means to ask God to give us what we want in the flesh. Rather it is a private, and sacred invitation we have the privilege of entering into. Prayer is a link between heaven and earth, and an opportunity for us to re-align our thinking with the will and ways of God. So the impression of prayer we carry into reading this passage is that of being fully aware our prayers are a step for us in the direction of carrying out the will of God, and not God carry out the will of us. What is interesting is the tone of Jesus' language in Matthew 7 is for the believer to be in a continual commitment of asking, seeking, and knocking. It is not a one time event, where we ask God the Father for what we want, seek Him for a short period of time, and knock at His door of deliverance. Instead, it is an attitude of approaching Him with a posture of knowing we are in desperate need of His constant grace and provision. A grace that reaches down to give us the very breath we use to ask Him for things, to seek His face, and to knock at His door. And it should captivate us that the God of the universe would not only come and live among His created, but would also encourage us to engage with our Father in a wild and childlike confidence as He desires to give us good gifts from above.

LOVE LIFE

What do you expect when you pray?

How do you seek God on a day-to-day basis?

What does it look like to knock at His door?