

Ask, and It will be Given

Jesus Says: A Series on the Sermon on the Mount Part 14

Matthew 7:7-11

Ryan Cole

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Total Dad Moves

- As you all know, I am a very funny guy. One of my favorite forms of stand up humor is observational comedy. Observational comedy takes place when a comedian points out something about everyday life, puts his or her own spin on it, and it's hilarious. It's usually something we all experience and relate to, but now it is hilarious.
- One of my favorite things on Twitter nowadays that is considered observational comedy is Total Dad Moves. There are many Twitter accounts out there that point out things that all dads do, and it's hilarious.
- Slideshow

Our Heavenly Father

- Tonight we're not going to be talking about our earthly dads, we're going to discuss our Heavenly Father. Tonight in this passage we are going to look at God the Father and what it means to be his children.
- One of the ways Jesus refers to God as his father more than any other name.
 - God was referred to as Father a few times in the Old Testament, but Jesus refers to God as Father primarily. In fact one of the only times when Jesus refers to Him as God rather than Father is when he is on the cross - "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (*Matthew 27:46*)
- In his prayer (The Lord's Prayer in *Matthew 6:9*) he refers to God as Father.
- I want to admit this up front. Relating to God as Father can be a major problem for some of you. Some of you have rotten dads.
 - I have an amazing dad. I am very thankful for him and acknowledge that I am very lucky to have such a great dad. But I know that many of you don't have great fathers. This might cause you to struggle to relate to God as your Father.
 - I know this can be hard, but I hope that as we look more at this text you will find comfort in God your Father.
- In this passage we're going to see three encouragements from Jesus. We will spend a little time on the first two points and the majority of our time on the last one.
 - Jesus encourages us to ask of God the Father.
 - Jesus promises that we will receive from God the Father.
 - Jesus says this is all rooted in the character of God the Father.

Matthew 7:7-11

Jesus encourages us to ask of God the Father. (*Matthew 7:7*)

- Jesus tells his disciples to petition God. He tells them to knock, seek, and ask.

- The Lord's Prayer is almost completely petitions to God. Ask for His Kingdom to come. Ask for your daily bread. Ask for forgiveness of sins. Ask to be led not in the way of temptation. Ask for God's will to be done.
- God wants us to petition him. He wants us to knock, seek, and ask.
 - James, Jesus brother, says, "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." (*James 4:2-3*).
 - By the way (on a side note) James wrote this, and he is the brother of Jesus. Most biblical scholars believe the book of James in the New Testament was based off of the Sermon on the Mount, or James was at least heavily influenced by the Sermon on the Mount. Sometime when you get a chance, sit down and read the Sermon on the Mount and then the book of James in one sitting. You will see many similarities.
- N.T. Wright says, "For most of us, the problem is not that we are too eager to ask for the wrong things. The problem is that we are not eager enough to ask for the right things."¹
- Everyone should ask themselves this two-part question: What do I need from God? Have I asked Him for it?
- I've heard someone say this:

Jesus promises that we will receive.

- Christians should ask God expectantly. In other words, when

Obstacles to prayer

- We think we can do it ourselves
- We don't think God will do anything about them.
- Our experiences with "unanswered" prayers.

Our asking and receiving are rooted in the character of God.

- God is generous.
- God is good.
- God has your best interest at heart.

Our Good Good Father

- Pat Barrett is one of the writers of the hit worship song "Good, Good Father." His father left him when he was a baby. He said, "The only person I've ever called Father was God."²

¹ N. T. Wright, *Matthew for Everyone*

² Worship Together, "Good Good Father // Housefires // New Song Cafe," October 2, 2015, accessed on November 7, 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=unucc7Mp8rU>.