

Introduction:

- Mt 7:7-12

I. The Set Up

- A. The three present imperatives: ask, seek, knock. Present tense indicates continued activity of those whose confidence rests in God. Do not ever stop this activity. We are always to be pursuing the heart of God and the ways of God. This is how we grow in the Kingdom. Our desire is to be for the Kingdom of God.
- B. *"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need."* (Matthew 6:33, NLT) Jesus in the sermon on the mount is revealing the heart of the Father so that His followers would begin to walk in His ways, not those of Pharisees. By revealing the Father's heart and ways He is inspiring His followers to begin to seek the Father's heart for themselves, therefore Mt. 6:33.
1. Ask - and receive. "You have not because you ask not."
 2. Seek - and find. Zeteo Gr. desire, look for, seek. IE. Lk 15 woman with lost coin, or shepherd with lost sheep.
 3. Knocking - and door shall be opened. Lk 18 parable of unjust judge.
 4. The three verbs function as synonyms as do the three responses.
- C. The Parental analogy.
1. Jesus begins to slowly show the similarity between parents and God the Father.
 - a) A child who is hungry asks for food.
 - b) A child who is hungry seeks from the source they are most secure in to provide food.
 - c) A child who is hungry will keep on asking until they are given something to eat.
 2. Children look to their parents to provide the basic necessities of their life. One of those being food. And good parents naturally give their children bread and fish not stones and snakes.

II. The Pivotal point

- A. *"If you then, being evil (carnal), 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!"* (Matthew 7:11, NKJV)
1. The point is: we are to rest in God's willingness to give His people all that they need.
 2. The childlike confidence of 7-8 is the prerogative of disciples who have a true relationship with their father in heaven.
- B. The analogy is to lead us to the Father.
1. Ask, seek, knock (we can relate to that)...good fathers respond with love and positively to their children (we can relate to that too).
 2. Oh! How much more your heavenly Father will respond!!! See also Lk 18 unjust judge.
 3. All of 7:7-11 was to lead us to the goodness of the Father! This is the point of the passage...."Therefore"

III. The Main Point

- A. The golden rule is a summary of everything that Jesus has been teaching up to this point.

1. *"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."* (Matthew 7:12, NKJV) It is very similar to the two commands of Mt 22:37-39. Love God and love each other. When you do that you fulfill all the law and the prophets. Mt 5:20 righteousness that exceeds.
 2. Because God gives good gifts to those who ask Him, the implication is that we His disciples are to do the same. So the center of gravity in this teaching/portion of scripture lies in the heavenly Father's giving not in the disciples asking. The golden rule demands a father like graciousness which stalls the judging which is prohibited at the start of chapter 7.
- B. Examples
1. You have heard don't murder...I say don't be angry.
 2. You have heard don't commit adultery...I say don't lust.
 3. You have heard don't break vows...I say let your word be good enough to stand alone.
 4. You have heard eye for eye...I say turn the cheek, walk the extra mile.
 5. You have heard love your neighbor and hate your enemies...I say pray and love your enemies.
 6. Give in secret, pray and fast in secret,
 7. Store up treasure in heaven...work for eternal rewards.
 8. Don't worry ...seek first the Kingdom.
- C. Are you treating others the way you want to be treated?
1. This is not something that you wait for others to do...you have to the initiative to live this.
 2. Look at your immediate relationships...spouse, family, close friends, and work your way out.
 3. What would you have to change to receive from others what you want to receive back? (Your expectation can't be to receive what you want only that you are willing to give like the Father gives to us.

Conclusion:

- Jesus simply wants us to treat others the way the Father treats us.
- Jesus simply wants us to love the Father the way the Father loves us.