

May 17, 2020  
La Jolla Christian Fellowship  
**Sermon on the Mount**  
**Episode 7: Ask, Seek, Knock.**  
Pastor Harry Wilson

**Matthew 7:7-11**

*7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.*

*9 "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 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!*

**Vs. 7-8 Ask, Seek, & Knock**

- Inquiry requires humility.
- This is an invitation to engage God relationally, regardless of your present spiritual locality.

" God answers prayer, but asking prayer is not primarily about answers. Asking prayer, like all other forms of prayer, is about relationship...When prayer is primarily about answers, our relationship with God becomes results focused."

- Adam Stadtmiller (*Praying For Your Elephant*)

**Vs. 8 Everyone who asks receives**

- This is not an exclusive invitation to the elect; to a certain race, religion, people group. Everyone is invited to engage in relational asking prayer.

### **James 4:2-3 NLT**

*"You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. 3 And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure."*

- The boldest prayers are not asking for the most lavish of our desires, but for the things we know we need and often do not want.

### **Vs. 11 Though you are evil**

- Good and evil are not made up of one grand gesture of altruism or malevolence, but of the micro decisions, routines, and habits of an entire meta-narrative.

**Ephesians 1:7** *"In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace"*

- It is out of the heavenly currency of love that we give good gifts to those we care for. God is the architect of that love, thus we can trust that He will give us good things.
- Pray with the posture of both boldness and openness; add "Thy will be done" to your lingua franca of prayer.

### **Call to Action**

1. Pray bolder. Ask more.
2. Pray for what you don't want, but think you need.
3. Be self aware of your own capacity for evil. This breeds caution, humility, and weakens out-casting judgment.
4. Pray with openness, inviting the will of God to be foremost.