

TRUST YOUR FATHER TO GIVE YOU GOOD GIFTS (vv. 9-11)

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!

1. While earthly Fathers can fall miserably short, Jesus appeals to our ideal notion of Fatherhood. God not only meets the ideal, he is the ideal.
 - a. What are some of the ways even the best of parents fail their children?
 - b. How is God different?
2. What are some of the good gifts he has already given us?
3. What are some of the additional gifts we can expect as we continue to seek him?
4. Does this guarantee that God will give us everything we want? Why or why not?
5. What are the gifts we should desire most?

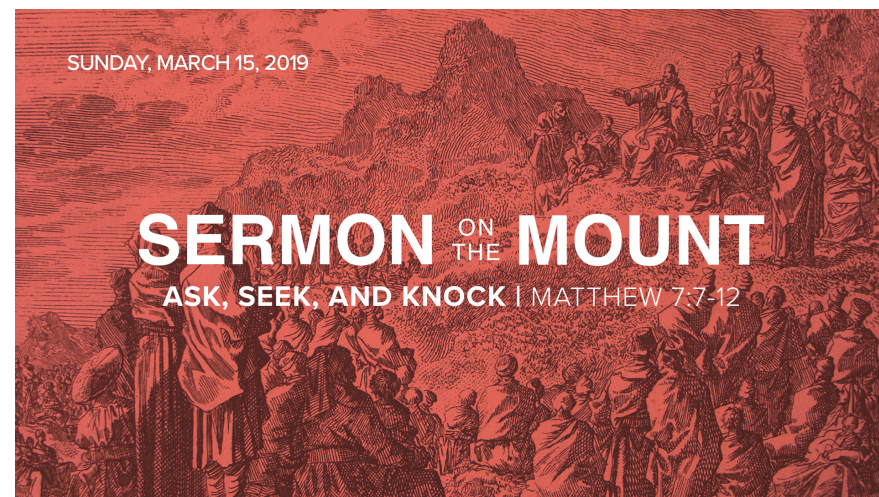
IN A SPIRIT OF GRACE OFFER YOUR BEST GIFTS TO OTHERS (v. 12)

¹² So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

1. How can “do to others what you would have them do to you” possibly sum up the Law and the Prophets?
2. What does this simple rule tell us about the intent of the Law and the Prophets?
3. What happens when we lose sight of this foundational principle?
4. What are some ways we can proactively love our neighbors during the Corona Virus scare?

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There are few invitations as compelling as Jesus' invitation to “ask... seek... and knock...” He promises us, “Everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” He gently reminds us, “Your Father... [knows how to] give good gifts to those who ask him.”

Jesus is not referring to our initial response to the gospel, or an occasional plea to God when we find ourselves in over our heads. He is inviting us to continually and habitually seek God, knowing we can never fathom his goodness or exhaust his riches.

The more we pursue God, the deeper our experience of his grace.

Jesus invites us to keep on asking, knocking and seeking, trusting our Father to give us good gifts, and in the spirit of his grace to offer our best gifts to others.

KEEP ON ASKING, SEEKING AND KNOCKING (vv. 7-8)

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.

1. Ask, seek, and knock are present tense verbs. The passage could just as easily be translated, “keep on asking.. keep on seeking... and keep on knocking...” Why is it important that we continually seek God?
2. What does Jesus promise will happen when we do?
3. What are some of the things we can expect to happen to us as we continually seek God?