



**Sermon on the Mount**  
**Wk.28 "Looking for the Father's Blessing"**  
**By Pastor Jody May 03/02/2025**

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**[CALL TO HEAR]**

**Matthew 7:7-11 ESV**

**Ask, and It Will Be Given**

<sup>7</sup>"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. <sup>9</sup>Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup>Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? <sup>11</sup>If you then, who are evil, 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!

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**Pastor - "People of God, this is the Word of God."**

**People - "Thanks be to God."**

**Pray**

**Illustration**

There is a truth represented in this room that speaks to the theological truth found in this scripture today, that when you want to find something bad enough, you will find it! All of us here this morning has at one point run into this dilemma, **"Honey, have you seen my keys?"** Now I know for some of us this happens more than we would like to confess this morning, and I bet if I did some research, we would discover that this happens to one gender more than the other, but I don't want to make any unsubstantiated claims this morning. Maybe it's not your keys but your cell phone. Like there are certain people in my family, that before they got an apple watch I do not know how they ever kept track of their cellular device! The point is, you must find your keys to drive, and you must find your phone to be plugged into life, so when you have to find them 99/100 times you do!

Here's what that experience teaches you in a behavioral modification type of way. **Hard work pays off!** Determination to accomplish the goal of discovery is almost always rewarded! Sure you had to call the whole family and close friends to see if they could help you, sure you had to wake everyone up on a



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Saturday morning to help you look, sure you had to take every seat cushion off in the house and upend every piece of furniture, sure you had to go to your car 3 times to check, and sadly enough some of you have even had to call me to get me to come to the church building to look for it, BUT you eventually found it, whatever it was! If you ask, if you seek, if you knock, continuously you will eventually find what you are looking for. Is it not nice of God to train us for /kingdom life in the everyday hassles of our earthly life?

We are at the point now in the SoM, where Jesus is wrapping up His exhortation on what is the Kingdom of Heaven and what it is not. Chapter 5 was all about the person who is living in the Kingdom, the characteristics of righteousness. Remember we said chapter 5 is not instructions on how to be a Christian, but it is a description of what a Christian does. Chapter 6 then starts with the practice of living in that Kingdom, here's how you live it out, to practice it. Then in Chapter 7 He begins His call, not an emotional come to the altar and pray, but He is building up His presentation so that in the future people who are being wooed by God, where the Spirit is beginning to open the veil, they will begin to see the Kingdom and desire it. This is where **Irresistible Grace** kicks in and those of the **elect** are beginning to go yes, I want that!

So, when you get here to 7:7 and Jesus says ask for it, the chosen know what He means, and if there is no desire yet, you don't know what He means. For those of the audience that are ready, it is the proof that the Spirit is calling, those that are hearing now know there is a Father that loves them, they also see now a mediator has been provided to bring this message, and they are hit with this truth, that God wants to bring them into this Kingdom! This leaves us with this realization, *I never knew I didn't have this but now I MUST have it!* In one's heart there is a sense of urgency like I need my keys, where are they, can you help me, I must get to this destination! This sense of desire combined with the apprehension that comes from knowing you must find it is EXACTLY where Jesus wanted to get you!

**MP:**

**God is a Good Father and His children desire what their Father does.**



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Those that hear the clear call of the Kingdom Life must come to understand how they need to approach a Heavenly Father that wants to bring them in. The first thing we will see today is **that one must approach shamelessly the Throne of Grace for their needs**. One cannot have a sense of not needing help to get in, there is an attitude that you must adopt to see the Kingdom. **Secondly, we need to acknowledge that the Love of the Father is better than anything else** in this world. Acknowledging this fact means accepting two things, His love is supreme over all others, and you must acknowledge Him that He is indeed your Father. Lastly, **we should accept that this reward is better than anything we could have ever hoped to have received**. Realizing the value of it keeps you always pursuing it.

Family may God help us to see the value of the Kingdom of Heaven today in Jesus' supremely important words for us.

**1. We approach shamelessly the Throne of Grace for our needs.**

*7*"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Ask, and **'it'** will be given to you, well what is **'it'**? That comes from seeking, seeking gives the connotation of trying to discover what **'it'** really is. When you discover what **'it'** is, well then knock away until that door is open and THEN you will receive **'it'**. The whole image of this picture of praying is going through a process of testing to see do you know what you really want, do you really want **'it'** that bad, are you able to reason with God why you want **'it'**.

Jesus holds in high regard the person who is serious about finding that which is lost, those who are willing to put in some work to get what is needed. In Luke 15 there are 3 stories He tells to display to the Pharisees/Scribes what it looks like when a leader in Israel, when a teacher of God's people, realizes there are those who are lost.

The first parable is of a shepherd that lost a sheep and left the flock to find the one, symbolizing the importance of a single elect sinner that needs to repent. The second story is of a poor woman seeking out a single coin and



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rejoicing over finding it, as it reflects the attitude, we are to have over finding the lost, extreme joy for discovery. The last story, the most famous of all, is about the prodigal son. The son that left the father to sow his wild oats that is set in contrast to the son that stayed home. No one went looking for that boy it was the older brother's job (Pharisee/Scribe), and he would not go, neither would he celebrate the return of his younger brother. Yes, Jesus holds in high esteem not just the seeker but the Father's will for that which is lost, and the joy of God, over finding that which is most desired and needed. Seeking is spiritual work that is God ordained, God blessed, and God empowered work, and His children should always be a part of that.

At this point today in the SoM, for those are called to Kingdom life, Jesus knows that there are people now who are tired of missing **'it'**. **'It IS the Kingdom of Heaven, living in the new reality perceived from God's objective point of view not ours.** Living in a world that is Sovereignly ruled by our Lord and in which you have real time communication, interactions, and blessings from our King and with His people for a purpose. People who want that reality will go after **'it'**!

They are tired of looking at their lives, of realizing they are not there yet, that they have a lot of worldly hang ups. He knows that there will be those people who want to leave behind them the desire for created things and who desire now their creator. Jesus is putting it all together for us now, if you want those characteristics of righteousness found in Chapter 5, then if you ask for it, if you seek it, if you knock and call for it, God will reward you with them!

**Luke 11:5-9 ESV**

<sup>5</sup>And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, <sup>6</sup>for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; <sup>7</sup>and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his **impudence** he will rise and give him whatever he needs. <sup>9</sup>And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.



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There was this massive hit by Garth Brooks in 1991 called *Shameless* where a man had finally achieved a world of his own making, he had everything he wanted, but was willing to act shamelessly to get the woman he loved that he would do anything to have her, even surrendered that which he had won. That word **impudence**<sup>1</sup> in v. 8 is the same word for **shameless**. The person that desires to have their prayers answered, to encounter the Kingdom, to draw close to God, if you pursue God **shamelessly**, surrendering **your PRIDE in this world you made**, you will receive Him. Are we shameless family when we ask God to change us? Do we just ask Him for help to behave better or we are desperately admitting to God my heart does not want change Father, change it, do what you want, PLEASE put in me a desire for you that will haunt me at night, but DO NOT leave me like this! The difference is we stop making timid requests based in the uncertainty of what may happen to us and instead we make passionate pleas whereby we tell our Father I cannot live like this anymore, give me the Kingdom, make me like Jesus!

**MP - God is a good father and his children desire what He wants.** He desires that we should search out His will for our lives, He desires that we learn the value of not being satisfied with this world, He desires to see our desperateness for Him, and those who are His children do exactly that.

## **2. We acknowledge that the Father's Love is better than anything else!**

<sup>8</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

First, don't read this statement too fast and not see the awesome truth behind it! We might be duped into believing that we will get the Kingdom if we but try hard enough, but **behind each blessing, receiving, finding, and opening, there is only one person that does all of that, God the Father.** The blessings of the Kingdom, yes you have got to desire them first, but it is the

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<sup>1</sup> **357** ἀναίδεια (*anaideia*), ας (*as*), ἡ (*hē*): n.fem.; ≡ Str 335—LN 66.12 **insolence**, importunity (KJV, ASV), (most versions) persistence; boldness (NIV), shamelessness (NEB), (Lk 11:8+) ἀναίρεομαι (*anaireomai*): vb.; ≡ Str 337—see 359. James Swanson, [Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)](#) (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).



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Father who put that desire in you, and when you go looking for more, it is the Father that gives it! You and I have never had anyone in our lives like this, someone that can make us want more of Him, by giving us more of Him, exactly when we needed Him the most, imprinting on our hearts forever who loves us! (Perseverance of the saints in initiated at conversion, and maintained through sanctification, because God is constantly getting us to see how much He loves us)

I want to go back to a truth that Jesus already revealed to us about the Father's goodness. Let's talk about how well our Father knows what to give exactly when you need it.

**Matthew 6:32-33 ESV**

For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly **Father knows that you need them all.** <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Next thing I want us to remember is that He's such a good providing Father that **He knows what we need before we ever ask!**

My dad had this uncanny ability to always know what I needed before I ever asked for things, as I started talking to him more about life. In my becoming a man, he would always hear what was going on in my life, he would evaluate my needs, and he would surprise me with some different but much appreciated gifts. One of my most rememberable acquisitions was the gift of this large air compressor that is in my garage today. When Heather and I got our first house I didn't know I needed an air compressor, I mean I grew up with one in my dad's house, but I never figured I would need one. But come to find out I use that thing all the time from everything to filling up car tires in a four-vehicle home, to blowing up the inflatables for summer water play, to using it for recreation pursuits like bike tires and balls for all sports and even using nail guns as I learned to be handier over time. I have had that thing for over 20 years, would have never bought that for myself, yet my father knew I needed it, and knew I would use it a lot!



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As we seek the Kingdom first our Father is good to provide for us what we will need for Kingdom living. It will be things that you never knew you needed but you will appreciate them when you start using them. Husbands that stress you endured in learning your trade, don't fool yourselves, that was so you could learn multi-tasking at home, you were developed by a trade pursuit so you could assume your leadership in the home and show your family how to pursue God. Everything we go through in the workplace is so that you would be prepared to lead at home, never take your skills for life as if they are only for one thing! Wives and moms, that ability to read the emotions of your children when they are small, I pray you understand that was so you could help your husband lead the home and inform him of how that child sees the world not to get between them and the kids. Kids all the hard work of learning relationship skills and educational pursuits is because God is leading you to have your own families one day to where you will glorify God. As you seek Him, you will find what you need because your Father in heaven already knew what you needed to live a God exalting life that would bring you home one day. We all have **to acknowledge that NO ONE loves us like our God loves us!**

<sup>9</sup>Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup>Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent?

Well at first glance this seems like a 'no-duh' thing. But you know what I have discovered, Jesus never says ANYTHING where we would have to say that. No, it usually means there is a little more to it. In the middle east some stones are round and smooth and strangely they are about the size of a loaf of bread. Someone pointed out to me this week, perhaps that is why the Devil tempted Jesus with turning stones into bread because of the likeness in appearance. There is also some fish in that part of the world that can look like serpents/eels. Point is which one of us, who is not the perfect Father, would give our kids a replica of a good thing when we have the power within our grasps to give the real thing! It's a rhetorical question.

We have to acknowledge though our Heavenly Father is better than our earthly fathers and with this knowledge we need to combat some false belief. **God would never give us something that was not good, He never makes a mistake!** Sometimes the things that He gives us don't at first make us happy,





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it does not mean though it wasn't a good gift. Sometimes people get into predicaments in their life, and something was good when you first received it turned out not to seem good later, well who's fault is that? It has to be God's if He's sovereign, right?

Perhaps you are one of those people that is experiencing a marriage that seems to have more trials than blessings, let me ask you something, could that be because you are the one that needs more sanctification? I actually know people who are Christians that divorced, without the sin of adultery involved, because they believed their marriage was a mistake! Friends let me be the perhaps the first to say to you, that was no mistake for ALL of God's gifts are good, but all His gifts were not given for your immediate happiness. Sometimes those good gifts will bring challenges, but those challenges are about making us more like Christ, and Christ is someone that lives in the Kingdom all the time, and getting into and staying in that Kingdom comes through a life of hard lessons, but hard lessons can be very good things!

If we start first with acknowledgment that God loves us better than anyone else, it will keep us from the grave sin of accusing Him of making a mistake for no one in the Kingdom of Heaven believes that lie.

**MP - God is a good father and his children desire what He wants.** God wants His people to know He loves them more than anyone else and choosing to accept that fact you will begin to see that truth in all things, and in return you increase your ability to feel reciprocal love for Him.

**3. We accept that what we receive is a better gift than what we wanted.**

**"If you then, who are evil, 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!**

So, as I said earlier, I have experienced an earthly minded man in my life that knew how to give good things but he also knew when not to listen to some of my stupid pleads. I remember taking my dad to look at a car one time to see if I could get him to bite on this good deal. There were selling up the road from





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my house a 1972 SS Camaro with a rebuilt 327. My dad was kind and looked at the car and was nice and didn't laugh when he saw the Nitro tanks in the trunk. Well, it was a 'no', and when he said it there was no argument, I knew he was right, I would kill myself. I was thankful he said it, because looking at that car was kind of looking at the girl you knew you should not date, this was nothing but trouble and I needed someone to stop me.

Sometimes we still come to God like this and what we ask for is way off, and that's ok, it's about learning to trust your Father's judgment in all of life, and you learn that by getting 'yes' and 'no's' (they are the training wheels of life). It is in that process though that you learn something. You learn what it is your Father will say yes to, and you begin to, by the process of practicing asking, seeking, and knocking, you come to learn what it is you should be asking for and even what you need. Then according to Jesus, you have hit the perfect storm. When our hearts begin to align with our Father's heart is when the blessings of the Kingdom flow!

When I was studying this week, this reminded me of the story of Jacob in Genesis 28-32, and wow I have had to pare down what I wanted to say because we don't have the time to get into all of it. Jacob, the 2<sup>nd</sup> born, he was born into Abraham's/Isaac's line, gaining the blessing of being in the family, but He was not going to receive the birthright. Jacob deceived his father, took the birthright and fled. Coming back home years later with two wives and two concubines with all his sons, and possessions and wealth, to have lived as an outcast seeking to take from God what he was not ready for yet and having returned home to have gained it in another way, by the sweat of his brow.

Before that eventful day of meeting his brother again he has an even more important meeting that night. He wrestles with God Himself and in that story, he had first divided up his party so to hopefully keep some alive, so he's alone with God. At the coming of dawn, he will not release the Lord and asks him for one thing, the thing that he did not ask for the first time but sought to take it from Esau and Isaac as if it was something they could give away in the first place. Jacob asks this time for the blessing, the Kingdom, but in the process what he really wants, is shown in who he is holding, God Himself. Finally,



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Jacob sees that all his life is God's and there was a plan, and God was working in/on Jacob's life to get him to see how much He loves him this prodigal son of his to bring him home. God grants him his wish and changes his name to Israel; *"you have striven with God and men, and you have prevailed"*. In return Jacob gets a limp for the rest of his life, but that too was a blessing from God, always to remind Jacob that encounter with God was real, it was no dream, God knows how to give the best gifts to those that are willing to hold on and not let go.

1,800 years later a man comes, and he tells a story of a son that left his Father, that had taken his birthright and had spent it out in the world. I wonder if Jesus is using His time with Jacob in the OT in his appearance to Jacob<sup>2</sup> to explain in His time, how this works. Jesus did what Esau would not do, Jesus did what the Pharisees/scribes would not do, He comes for the younger brother, He comes for us. He has come to show us how much His Father loves us, Jesus comes to deliver the message, that there is forgiveness and the birthright, His inheritance is yours, He will share it. He pays the world for what is owed for our theft and treachery with His blood, and He displays the lengths that His Father will go to save every one of His children.

All of the sudden we are faced with this fact; what God wants to give to us is something greater than I ever hoped to receive. It is the **acceptance** back into my royal family, where I will be forever cared for, where I will forever have place at the table, and where I will forever get to spend time with, He who I now love the most. **Family, it is AMAZING and hard to grasp thing, but we need to accept that we got more from God than we ever thought we could receive, Amen.**

**MP - God is a good father and his children desire what He wants. - Reconciliation and Representation. We want Him and we want to live for Him.**

**[CALL TO OBEY]**

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/theophany-Christophany.html>



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Family today are you tired of never being satisfied, do you hunger and thirst for righteousness, I call you today, to ask, seek, and knock until you get an answer.

- **Ask God to bless you, but ask Him with this one condition, not my will but thine be done.** (Shameless)
- **Seek God in all things, keep in mind that the Father is in all of life, nothing is wasted, what is it He is teaching you about the Kingdom?**
- **Knock and knock again until you discover God is answering prayers, and then go knocking some more!**

All of these are lifelong commitments, but that is ok for that is the Father's desire, for He wants you to be like His firstborn Son, and He wants to bring you home, and if you are His then you will want the same exact things.

Have you ever wrestled with God yet to receive His blessing? Have you ever fought with Him scared to lose Him? Then know you can have Him by accepting the gift of Salvation through His Son for you, and He will never leave you nor forsake you. Amen.

## **Prayer**

## **Communion**

### **Matthew 26:26-29 ESV**

<sup>26</sup> Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." <sup>27</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, <sup>28</sup> for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."



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Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus. Jesus lived a life as one who was blessed by God and never sold His birthright even though He was offered the world by the Devil himself. He constantly sought the will of God in all things, and in return He perfected His righteousness which He gladly shares with us His people. Praise be to Him for His blessed generosity.

Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood. We had traded in our birthright so we could have a cheap imitation of happiness now. In doing so we wasted our blessings, we tarnished His name, and we sought to put ourselves in His place of prominence. But Jesus full of Grace and Mercy paid our price once and for all so we may be redeemed and brought home to the Father once again. Praise be to Him for His wonderful Love!

**[CONFESSION OF FAITH]**

\* The Congregation will stand

**Elder – "Christians, what do we believe?"**

**Congregation - recites**

**London Baptist Confession of Faith 1689, 13.3 Sanctification**

In this war (against sin), although the remaining corruption may overpower believers for some time, the regenerate part will overcome through the continual supply of strength from the sanctifying Spirit of Christ. Therefore, the saints will grow in grace and become more holy in the fear of God. They will pursue a heavenly life in gospel obedience to all the commands that Christ, as Head and King, has given to them in his Word.

10. Romans 7:23

11. Romans 6:14

12. Ephesians 4:15-16; 2 Corinthians 3:18, 7:1

**[OFFERING+LAST SONG]**

**[BENEDICTION]**



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Go in the name of the Father, that desires for His children to be saved and returned to Him, and gives the best gift of all, His undying love.

Go in the name of the Son, that has sought us and brought us home, conquering the devil, death, and our sin.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, who shows us the Kingdom, who causes us to repent, and who empowers us to share this Gospel with others.



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