

The Sermon on the Mount 13 - Ask, Seek, Knock

Matthew 7:7-12

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 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 whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

Why is this passage located where it is?

the topic is PRAYER

Martin Luther said, “[Christ] also wants to indicate that because of all the temptations and hindrances we face, nothing is more necessary in Christendom than continual and unceasing prayer that God would give His grace and His Spirit.”

James 1:17

John 15:16

James 1:5-6

1. ASK and it will be given to you

James 4:2b-3

1 John 5:14-15

2. SEEK and you will find

1 Chronicles 28:9

Proverbs 8:17

Jeremiah 29:13

Isaiah 55:6

(over)

3. KNOCK and it will be opened for you

Revelation 3:20

The Golden Rule – a summary of Matthew 5:15 through 7:1

Luther: ““He concludes the teaching He has been giving in these three chapters, and wraps it all up in a little package where it can all be found.”

Leviticus 19:18

The Golden Rule is active!

Jesus lived this rule every day of His life.

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Next week: **Matthew 7:13-23—Kingdom Living vs. the Life of This World.**

Here are a few questions to consider for next week:

1. Why are broad gates and false prophets so appealing to people today?
2. What are the ways in which the world's gate is "wide"?
3. How is Christianity's gate "narrow"?
4. Why does Jesus follow this description of the gates with an admonition concerning false prophets in verses 15-20?
5. Think of examples of "false prophets" in the news and advertising. What disguises ("sheeps' clothing") might false teachers wear today?
6. How can fruit reveal the inner person? How can it also mislead our judgment if we're not cautious?
7. Why might a person mistakenly think his "works" will earn him a spot in the kingdom?
8. Whom will Christ truly know in the last judgment?