



## Ask and It Will Be Given

November 23

**INTRODUCTION:** As Jesus continues to stress true righteousness in the life of His disciple He turns to a series of warnings. Today we'll consider a positive warning. Having focused on focus, faith, humility and mission Jesus turns returns to prayer, a key component of lived righteousness, of carrying out the lofty teachings of the Sermon on the Mount

**KEY POINT:** perseverance in prayer

**CHALLENGE:** In one sitting, read the whole sermon often over the coming months.

**A.M. SERMON RECAP** (Mt 6:33, Loving Self)

- What does it mean to rightly love oneself?
- How are we harmed by not putting God ahead of “these things”?
- What does it mean to seek: a) God’s kingdom, b) His righteousness? (as an unbeliever and as a believer)

**P.M. SERMON RECAP** (1 Thes 5:17, Peter Lemont)

- Why is this simple verse important to be reminded of?
- Who do we pray without ceasing?
- Why do we pray without ceasing?
- General comments

**READ:** Mt 7:7–11

### QUESTIONS:

1. **As you read the Sermon what feelings does it evoke?**
2. *Having heard the sermon thus far it seems very rousing, as if the listener may try, in his own strength, to attain these lofty commands in his own strength. Yet, return to Mt 5:3. Consider Mt 5:48. We need God’s help if we are to be any of these things. It is not surprising then that Jesus returns to the subject of prayer.*

*\*All three of these verbs are active continuous, we’re to keep on doing the action.*

1. *The Word of Faith movement is the “name it and claim it” movement. What spirit lies at the heart of such an approach to prayer?*
2. *How may we be certain Jesus is thinking about something entirely different when He encourages us in these things?*
3. **V. 7- Echoing the promise of Jer 29:13, what does He mean by the following?<sup>1</sup>:**

ASK

1. *To ask...*

SEEK

2. *To seek...*

KNOCK

3. *To knock*

SUMMARY (v. 8)

4. **Why would there be no encouragement in prayer if we didn’t have this promise?**
5. *Jesus said much about perseverance (Mt 13:20; Lk 9:62; 1 Jn 2:19). Why must we persevere in prayer?*

EXCOURAGING EXAMPLES (vv. 9–11)

Earthly Parenting

6. **Appropriately, what do we do if our children make a legitimate request of us?**

Heavenly Parenting

7. **If we, sinful parents, can give good gifts, how much more will God, who is perfect, give “good gifts” to His disciples?**
8. **Why does God desire us to seek Him in prayer?**
9. **Again, what are the “good gifts” we’re to ask for?**
10. *One quality of non-Western Christians is prayer. Would you say the West is characterized by prayer? Answer why to either an affirmative or a negative answer.*

**Next Week:** The Golden Rule, Mt 7:12–14