



**Title: The Message of the King – The Sermon on the Mount (part 12) – Application of Righteousness with Respect to Praying to God and Treatment of Others.**

**Text:** Matt. 7:7-12

7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. 9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? 10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? 12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

**Introduction:**

1. Again, Chapter 7 concludes the Lord's Sermon on the Mount.
2. In Chapter 5 we see the Doctrine of Righteousness; in Chapter 6 & 7, the Practice of Righteousness in relationship to fellow believers, unsaved, and God.
3. Here in Chapter 7:7-12, we shall learn from the King some additional instructions concerning prayer and the proper treatment of others.

**I. Additional "Prayer Principles" from the King:**

1. Earlier in Ch. 6 – the Lord Jesus taught about prayer as a duty BUT here in Ch. 7 he explains that prayer is the God-ordained way of obtaining or receiving God's grace (or help).
2. The Principles of Prayer in three words: Ask, Seek, and Knock.
3. Jesus' commandments are also His encouragements. He enables us to do what He has commanded us to do. We must obey in the power of His strength – His Spirit!
4. The Product of Prayer: Answered Prayers! – if evil parents give good gifts to their children, then God, who is holy, will exceedingly give good things to His children. BTW, what is Jesus' assessment of humans in v.11? That we are "evil" (meaning sick, painful or sore, bad, wicked, & hurtful).
5. The verbs teach persistence – pray until God answers.
6. Learn to receive (as in accept) God's answers to prayers.
7. His answers are far wiser than our prayers.

**II. The King's Summary of the Second Greatest Commandment: Love thy Neighbor. [Matt. 22:36-40]**

1. God will deal with us in the same way we deal with Him. (Zech. 7:9 & 13).
2. God will deal with us (answer or not answer our prayers) according to how we deal with others (Isa. 1:15-17; 58:6 & 9).
3. In judging, in giving, in helping others – we must imitate the loving, gracious, Heavenly Father!
4. Love the person you are dealing with in "Godly love." A love that reflects God! NOT SELF.
5. Many people (even Christian people) are used to serving SELF! Doing for others is not in their behavior and habit.
6. Learn to do for others – replace SELF with OTHERS.

**Conclusion:**

1. The Lord Jesus will grant us the power to obey Him if we are willing and praying for it.
2. Let us go to Him in prayer and come out the victor BECAUSE of Jesus Christ!