

Jesus on The Father

Matthew 7:7-11

God is a good Father who delights in giving us what we need.

1. Persistence (v7-8)

2. Perspective (v9-10)

3. Perfection (v11)

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT:

1. Garth Brooks put out a song a long time ago called “Unanswered Prayers.” (Listen to it if you’re feeling adventuresome...) Can you think of some prayers of yours that you’re grateful God didn’t answer the way you wanted Him to?
2. Recount a time when you asked for something in prayer and received it. What did that experience do for your prayer life and for your walk with the Lord? Now the opposite – recall a time when you did not receive what you asked for. What was the impact of that experience?
3. Does verse 7 encourage us to ask for whatever we want? Does verse 8 guarantee that we’ll get it? How does Psalm 37:4 help you answer that?
4. Does verse 7 apply to everybody? How does verse 11 help you answer that? What does John 1:12-13 have to contribute to the answer?
5. What’s the significance of the fact that the imperatives of v7 are present active ones, as in “keep asking, seeking and knocking”? What are the implications for your prayer life? Is it beneficial not to receive what you ask for right away? How does not receiving it impact your prayer life?
6. What would a father be doing if he gave his child a stone instead of bread, a serpent (or eel) instead of a fish (or a scorpion instead of an egg, Luke 11:12)? Would you do that to your child? Why does Jesus compare fallen human fathers to the heavenly Father? What does seeing God as your heavenly Father do for your prayer life?
7. Read Luke 11:1-13. What does the story in verses 5-8 teach us about prayer? How does God compare to the sleeping friend in the story? Is the point that He’s like him or unlike him? How does He compare to the trickster father in verses 11-12? What “good gift” does the Father give in verse 13? How does that help you understand Matthew 7:11?
8. Read Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians in Eph 1:15-22. What things does Paul pray for here? Is this a prayer God is likely to answer in the affirmative? Why or why not?