

**Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, Oct. 17, 2021**

**Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew**

**Message 52. Ask, Seek, Knock – Matthew 7:7-11**

**Pastor Phillip M Way**

Intro: “Life is a journey, a journey full of perplexities, problems, and uncertainties. That being the case, it emphasized that what really matters in life is not so much the various things that come to meet us, and with which we have to deal, as our readiness to meet them. Abraham ‘went out, not knowing whither he went.’ But he was perfectly happy, at peace, and at rest. He was not afraid. Why? Abraham went out, not knowing whither he went; but he did know with Whom he went. He was not alone.” (See also, Jesus in John 16:32) – DM Lloyd-Jones

- I. Ask, Seek, Knock – vs. 7-8
  - A. God’s Children – Prov. 15:29; 28:9
    - 1. Our Father – Matt. 6:9; 1 John 3:1-3
    - 2. Adopted – Eph. 2:12, 19; Rom. 8:15
    - 3. Obedient – 1 John 3:22 – Quote #1
    - 4. When Prayer is Denied – Luke 13:24-30
  - B. Persist in Prayer – present imperative – Luke 11:5-10; 18:1-8; 1 Thess. 5:17; Rom. 15:30
  - C. Ask – James 4:3
    - 1. Believing – Mark 11:22-24
    - 2. In My Name – John 14:13-14; 15:7, 16
    - 3. For wisdom – James 1:5-7
    - 4. For workers – Matt. 9:37-38 (gospel advance)
- II. God Gives Good Things – vs. 9-10
  - A. God Gives Us What We Need – Phil. 4:18-19
    - 1. Bread/stone, fish/serpent – CHS Quote #2
    - 2. Precious Promises – 2 Peter 1:2-4
  - B. God Gives Us What is Best – 1 Cor. 6:12; 10:23; Luke 15:22
  - C. God Gives Us What is Good – James 1:16-17
- III. God Knows How to Give Better than We Know to Ask – vs. 11
  - A. The Spirit Rightly Interprets Our Prayers – Rom. 8:26-27
  - B. God is Far Ahead of Us in Answering – Matt. 6:8

Quote #1 – “When we lack, have we asked, and when we ask, how much like the Sermon on the Mount are we living?”

CHS Quote #2 – “We mistake a serpent for an eel, and beg for it as for a fish. Our heavenly Father will correct our prayer and give us, not what ignorantly seek, but what we really need.”

## **Cross References**

### **John 16:32**

32 Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.

### **Proverbs 15:29**

29 The Lord is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.

### **Proverbs 28:9**

9 One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.

### **Matthew 6:9**

9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

### **1 John 3:1-3**

3 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

### **Ephesians 2:12**

12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

### **Ephesians 2:19**

19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

### **Romans 8:15**

15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

### **1 John 3:22**

22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

### **Luke 13:24-30**

24 "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.  
25 When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and

knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,' 26 then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.' 27 But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.' 28 There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. 29 They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. 30 And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last."

### **Luke 11:5-10**

5 And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; 7 and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'? 8 I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs. 9 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

### **Luke 18:1-8**

18 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, 2 saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. 3 Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' 4 And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, 5 yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.' " 6 Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. 7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

### **1 Thessalonians 5:17**

17 pray without ceasing,

### **Romans 15:30**

30 Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me,

### **James 4:3**

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

### **Mark 11:22-24**

22 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. 23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. 24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

**John 14:13-14**

13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

**John 15:7**

7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

**John 15:16**

16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

**James 1:5-7**

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

**Matthew 9:37-38**

37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. 38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

**Philippians 4:18-19**

18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. 19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

**2 Peter 1:2-4**

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

**1 Corinthians 6:12**

12 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

**1 Corinthians 10:23**

23 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.

**Luke 15:22**

22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.

**James 1:16-17**

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

**Romans 8:26-27**

26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

**Matthew 6:8**

8 “Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

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