

The Gospel of Matthew #69**Sermon on the Mount: chapter 7: Climax of instruction & warnings**Overview of Matthew 7:

7:1-12: The danger when you hear chapters 5 & 6 is to still try to establish your own righteousness. That will lead to 4 feelings:

7:1-5: feel superior by Law → judge everyone

7:6: feel superior by "Love" → judge no one

7:7-11	feel hopeless; need enlarge confidence in Father
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7:12 feel confused; simplified summary

7:13-27: Final invitations and warnings by means of 4 contrasts:

7:13-4 2 gates & roads: wide & narrow

7:15-20 2 kinds of fruit: bad & good

7:21-23 2 displays of "faith": simple obedience & flashy miracles

7:24-27 2 foundations: sand & rock

Be very careful to know where you are!

WRESTLING WITH GOD**Matthew 7:7-11**

These verses among most misunderstood because taken out of context:
seen as teaching on persistent prayer

Compare 7:1-5 do not ever judge; be tolerant of all
21:21-22 you can move mountains thru your faith

So here: if you persist in prayer, you will surely get your good gift from God

In context, however, I believe it is saying something quite different

7:1-12: four ways of reacting to Jesus' teaching of chapters 5 & 6:

3. Feel **hopeless** because you will never measure up to Jesus' standards

This brings you right back to the beginning of the sermon: **5:3**

You come to God as a spiritual beggar to ask for _____ in your confusion, and _____ in your weakness

<u>Invitation</u>	<u>Promise</u>	<u>For you: Everyone</u>
Keep asking	Will be given	Receives
Keep seeking	Will find	Finds
Keep knocking	Door will be opened	Door opened to you

Sometimes it doesn't *seem* that way!

Keep on, because you know the Judge is also your kind and good heavenly Father: v9-11

Argument from _____ to _____ :
If your son asked for bread, you give a stone?
fish, snake?

Do you think God is less compassionate than you are?!
5:48; 6:8, 26, 30, 32

But if it is about our minds and hearts, why does Jesus say "**good gifts**" in v11?

11a is "good gifts"; but 11b is simply "**good**"
(cf. Luke 11:13: "the Holy Spirit"!)

This is not about _____ ; it is about the _____ .

God wants us to seek after Him and His wisdom with passion and insistence. He is not found by the casual.

Proverbs 2:1-6; 4:7-9; 8:10-11, **17**, 34-36

Eg: Gen 32:22-32: how Jacob met God

Jesus is your Wisdom (I Cor 1:30); set your heart on Him and He will meet you and give your deepest desire.

Believe His goodness and set your heart on Him.