



THE GOSPEL OF  
MATTHEW



# Asking for the Kingdom

Matthew 7:7–12



The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting.  
It has been found difficult; and left untried.

— G. K. Chesterton



## Outline of Jesus' Sermon

5:3–16

*Introduction*

The Character and Calling  
of True Citizens  
in God's Kingdom

5:17 — 7:12

*Message*

Deep Righteousness  
in All of Life

7:13–27

*Conclusion*

Two Ways to Live



## Matthew 7:7–11

<sup>7</sup> “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. <sup>9</sup> Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? <sup>11</sup> If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!”



## Matthew 7:12

<sup>12</sup> “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”



## 1. Relying on God (7:7–8)

<sup>7</sup> “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”



## Anxiety → Asking

6:25–34 → 7:7–11

“Do not be anxious”	“Ask and you will receive”
6:25—do not be <b>anxious</b>	7:7— <b>ask</b>
6:28—why are you <b>anxious</b>	7:8—who <b>asks</b>
6:31—do not be <b>anxious</b>	7:9—if his son <b>asks</b>
6:34—do not be <b>anxious</b>	7:10—if his son <b>asks</b>
6:34—tomorrow will be <b>anxious</b>	7:11—those who <b>ask</b>



## Philippians 4:6–7

<sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



## Jeremiah 29:13

“You will **seek** me and find me, when you **seek** me with all your heart.”



## Psalm 105:4

**Seek** the LORD and his strength;  
**seek** his presence continually!



## Colossians 3:1–2

<sup>1</sup> If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek** the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> **Set your minds** on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.



## Matthew 6:32–33

<sup>32</sup> “For the Gentiles **seek** after all these things...

<sup>33</sup> But **seek** first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”



## Matthew 5:6

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they shall be satisfied.”



## Matthew 7:13–14

<sup>13</sup> “Enter by the narrow **gate**. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. <sup>14</sup> For the **gate** is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who **find** it are few.”



## 2. Receiving from God (7:9–11)

<sup>9</sup> “Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent?”

<sup>11</sup> If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!”



## Meaning of “Good” in Matthew’s Gospel

Matthew	Meaning	“Good”
5:45	ethical	righteous people
7:11	material	father gives “good gifts”
7:11	_____	God will give “good things”
7:17–18	ethical	good person, heart, actions
12:34–35	ethical	good person, heart, words
19:16–17	ethical	good actions, character
20:15	ethical	generosity of God
22:10	ethical	good wedding guests
25:21, 23	ethical	faithful servant of God



## Luke 11:13

“If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give **the Holy Spirit** to those who ask him!”



For most of us, the problem is not that we are too eager to ask for the wrong things. The problem is that we are not eager enough to ask for the right things.

— Tom Wright



## John 6:35

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst...”



## Isaiah 55:6–7

<sup>6</sup> “**Seek** the LORD while he may be **found**; call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”



## Matthew 7:8, 11

<sup>8</sup> “For **everyone** who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”

<sup>11</sup> “...how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to **those who ask him!**”



### 3. Becoming like Christ (7:12)

<sup>12</sup> “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”



## Bookends in the Sermon on the Mount

### Matthew 5:17

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”

### Matthew 7:12

“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”



## Romans 8:29

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.



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