

Title: Kingdom Persistence

Text: Matthew 7:7-14

Target: To not lose heart in the journey of doing what is right by realizing that God is working even when we don't see it or feel it.

1. **Persistence in Prayer:** (Vs. 7-11)
 - a. **Petitions are Aligned:** *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."* (Vs 7)
 - i. **Keep on Asking:** In Humility
 - ii. **Keep on Seeking:** In Harmony
 - iii. **Keep on Knocking:** In Hopefulness
 - b. **Promise to Answer:** *"For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened."* (Vs 8)
 - i. **Receives:** In Assurance
 - ii. **Finds:** In Acceptance
 - iii. **Opens:** In Access
 - c. **Pleasure to Abound:** *"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!"* (Vs. 11)
2. **Patient towards People:** *"So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."* (Vs. 12)
 - a. **Expectation of Consideration:** *"whatever you wish others would do to you"*
 - b. **Consideration requires Demonstration:** *"do also to them"*
 - c. **Demonstration becomes Revelation:** *"Law and the Prophets"*
 - i. Give Generously
 - ii. Love Liberally
 - iii. Serve Sacrificially
 - iv. Think Thoughtfully
3. **Pathway is a Person:** *"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. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few."* (Vs. 13-14)
 - a. **Two Gates:**
 - i. **Narrow is the Way:** Exclusive to Jesus
 - ii. **Wide is the Way:** Everything but Jesus
 - b. **Two Guides:**
 - i. **Way is Easy:** Comfortable and Popular
 - ii. **Way is Hard:** Challenging and Painful
 - c. **Two Guarantees:**
 - i. **Leads to Life:** Eternal Heaven
 - ii. **Leads to Destruction:** Eternal Hell

Take Away: Who is that one person that does not know Jesus that you're going to pray to Jesus for, demonstrate Jesus to, and share Jesus with?