

Sermon Discussion Questions

Kingdom Persistence

Matthew 7:7-14

Nov 9, 2019

Getting Started: 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.

Share with us about a time when you saw or heard about someone who became a Christian or made a really great Christ-honoring decision, and you had no idea they were close to believing in or believing on Jesus.

Going Deeper:

Persistence in Prayer: (Vs. 7-11)

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)

Keep on Asking: In Humility

Keep on Seeking: In Harmony

Keep on Knocking: In Hopefulness

The imagery that helps us understand this verse is the picture of a child asking a Father for something the child really wants. Children can be very persistent. How easy is it for you to approach God as a good Father? How is this seen in your prayer life?

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)

Receives: In Assurance

Finds: In Acceptance

Opens: In Access

Psalm 37:3-6 tell us,

“Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.

Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He will do it.

He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your judgment as the noonday.

How do these verses help us understand how to ask, seek, and knock?

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)

The phrase ‘*how much more*’ reminds us that no matter how much we might imagine something to be like, God always takes it beyond our expectations. What good gifts has God given to you that have blown you away?

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)

Expectation of Consideration: *“whatever you wish others would do to you”*

Consideration requires Demonstration: *“do also to them”*

Demonstration becomes Revelation: *“Law and the Prophets”*

Give Generously Love Liberally Serve Sacrificially Think Thoughtfully

When we practice this lifestyle, we preach through our actions, becoming modern day prophets that show others the way to Jesus. What are your actions saying?

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)

Two Gates:

Narrow is the Way: Exclusive to Jesus

Wide is the Way: Everything but Jesus

Two Guides:

Way is Easy: Comfortable and Popular

Way is Hard: Challenging and Painful

Two Guarantees:

Leads to Life: Eternal Heaven

Leads to Destruction: Eternal Hell

Ironically, it's the people who choose indulgent, selfish, foolish, and destructive behavior who think they are being rebellious. Actually, they are just doing what most of humanity is doing. The real 'rebels' are those few of us who choose the narrow way, the hard way, and the way that leads to life. The word 'life' is zoe, which means 'supernatural, spiritual, and eternally significant'. No one will find this zoe life by living like everyone else in this broken world. We will only find it when we surrender to Jesus as Savior and let Him become the leader of our lives, living in us and empowering us with His Holy Spirit. Are you walking on Jesus' path? What is it looking like?

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?