SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Mt Sermon Series: Part 32: Ask, Seek and Knock… but, for what? Matthew 7:7-11
Kent Vincent ~ June 4, 2017

[7] "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. [8] For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. [9] Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone?[10] Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? [11] 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!

"Ask, and it will be given to you." What is so confusing about that?

Is God our omniscient Father,- or- is He our genie?

Reference: Lionandlambchurch.com/ Sermons/ Viewing All Sermons/ Date/ November 7, 2010 for 'The Poverty Gospel'

Why at this point in the Sermon on the Mount?

Context of Mt 7:1-6- : All things 'Judgment', the prerequisite of which is 'self-judgment'.   The chain goes from there to desperate hopelessness.
Question: How can I ever do this?
Answer: '*Ask, and it shall be given you.'*

There are pre-conditions to asking:

I.   **We Must First See Our Need and His Grace**

Jesus is our friend, but it takes more than the attraction of a friend to remain His friend.

Jesus saves us, but from what?

To see that, we must first recognize our utter inability to live up to God's standard of righteousness and perfect justice.

Then, we must recognize God's grace to provide the payment for our sin to satisfy His perfect justice.

II. **We Must be Persistent**

See parables in Luke 11 and Luke 18 for examples of persistence.

James 4:2-3 … *You do not have, because you do not ask. [3] You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.*

Why do we fail to ask (pray)?

A. **It is 'inappropriate'.** The command to ask has nothing to do with Him being forced or ready to give, but rather with whether we are ready to receive in humble dependence.

B. **It is 'unnecessary'.** God's 'redemption gifts' come only by asking.

C. It is 'unproductive'. God's hands are much safer than our own when it comes to knowing what is best for us and what furthers His plan and will.

Paul's persistence: *…forgetting what lies behind and **reaching forward** to what lies ahead, **I press on….** Phil 3:13-14*

III. We Must See Him as Our Father

Vss 9-10- *Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone?* [10] *Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent?*

A fortiori argument: If an earthly father will do one thing, how much more will our heavenly Father do for us?

Vs 11a- *If you then, who are evil…* We not only DO evil, we ARE evil, **by nature**. However, by 'receiving' and 'believing' in His name, while we cannot be His natural children, we became children of God **by adoption**. *See Romans 8:15*

IV. We Must Know that He Never Gives Evil or Makes Mistakes-

Vss 9-10- Whether you had a good, bad or mediocre earthly father, your heavenly Father will never give or do anything to you that is evil.

V. He Gives Great Gifts-

Vs 11b *… how much more will your Father who is in heaven give **good things to those who ask him!***

But what are these gifts? Luke 11:13- *how much more will the heavenly Father give **the Holy Spirit** to those who ask him!"* This is a comprehensive gift. II Peter 1:3. It includes daily forgiveness, deliverance from evil, peace, more faith, hope, love, joy; in other words, all the virtues that Christ exemplified.

Application:

1. **Know** for what to pray, according to His will. Therefore, study & meditate on His Word.

2. **Have faith** that He will cause His will to be done in our best interest.

3. **Desire** His will for your life in all circumstances. That desire can only be expressed through consistent, daily prayer.

CAUTION! If you do NOT ask, you do NOT receive.