

MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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Senior Pastor Marty Grubbs continued in the Sermon on the Mount series focusing on prayer. Throughout his life, Jesus taught about prayer many times. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus preached about prayer through three words: Ask, seek, and knock. Asking God is only part of prayer. Sometimes it is what brings us to God, to request, even to plead, that God's will aligns with our heart's desire. Seeking is actively looking to God's character and righteousness with hopes of aligning our will with God's heart's desire. Finally, knocking on heaven's door is the privilege we have to humbly approach God, knowing that he welcomes us. This passage in Jesus' sermon reminds us that our God is relational – he is loving, and he is always good. There's an old saying that goes, "God doesn't always give us what we want, but he gives us what we need." When we look for the answer to prayer, we need to look at these three words, ask, seek, and knock. When we understand those three elements of prayer, we will recognize the good gifts that are God's answer.

SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 7:7-11

⁷ "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

⁹ "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?

¹¹ If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

MATTHEW 6:33

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

MATTHEW 6:5-13

⁵ "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹ "This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out from Marty's message?
2. Read Matthew 7:7-11. What does Jesus teach about prayer?
3. What does asking, seeking, and knocking mean? Use your own words.
4. Read Matthew 6:33. What does it mean to seek the God's kingdom and righteousness?
5. Read Matthew 6:5-13. Look at each part of the prayer Jesus models. How do these align with asking, seeking, and knocking?
6. Jesus is not giving us a prayer to memorize, he is giving us a template for getting our hearts and minds right when we come to God in prayer. How does this compare to your current prayer life?
7. What are you asking? What are you seeking? Have you continued to knock believing you are welcome?
8. How can we pray for you?

PRAYER

Begin your prayer by acknowledging God welcomes you into the heavenly realms the minute you turn to him. Next offer your praise in recognizing God's goodness, and those areas you fall short. Check your heart for any forgiveness you haven't offered to those who have offended you and leave bitterness and resentment behind. Ask for your heart's desire, and that your will aligns with God's. Ask in the name of Jesus because he has done the work that allows you to be in relationship with God. And finally, keep praying.