

## **Ask, Seek & Knock (Matthew 7:7-11)**

### **Introduction**

- New year means different thing for different people. For some people it is a reset on their medical insurance deductible. For others, it is a time again to pay another year tax.
- But for God's children, the New Year always reminds them His promises and hope.
- **Illustration:** Book and a new chapter - God is writing. Whom do you keep your on if you child is on a play? God's eyes are on you.
- Another year to taste the goodness of our Lord; another year to be a witness for Him; another year to do His work with joyful heart; another year to make a difference in this world.
- Luke 13:6-9 - the parable of unfruitful fig tree where the worker requests to keep the tree one more year so that it can produce fruit.
  - The meaning of another year is that we should bear fruit for the Lord.
- **Illustration:** Any of our Christmas gifts can become museum if it is not used. Let's use our life which is a gift from our loving God.
- Everyone has limited energy (horsepower) and limited time, let's not fill our life's "time-box" with unfruitful things but with valuable things in the sight of God.
- Let's be Martha-Mary church. Let everyone serve the Lord and be ready to sit at His feet to hear His word.
- The passage before us Matthew 7:7-11 has a blessed promise from the Lord. It reveals who is our God and what He expects from us in this New Year.
- Note carefully these **THREE** promises (repeated twice) are given freely to those who have become His children and call Him "Our Father."
- "Ask, seek & knock" - three things are mentioned but it means our passionate, persistent prayer. Like bread & butter means buttered

bread. Note the parable of prayer before this command in Luke 11:5-13.

- Many interpretations of “Ask, Seek & Knock”:
  - It is a blank check from God. So, you can ask anything and God will give to you. Even though we serve the Lord who is able to give anything that we ask Him, this view is incorrect.
  - The previous section Matthew 7:1-6 Judging others. We need wisdom. That’s what the Lord is talking about “ask, seek & knock.”
  - If we cast the net wider, you may see this passage comes within the Sermon on the mount Matthew 5:1-7:29, we can see that the Lord taught many things about His children life with Him, namely, the beatitudes, the salt & the light, anger, adultery, divorce, oaths, revenge, loving enemies, our giving, prayer & fasting, worry about tomorrow.
  - This “ask, seek & knock” is about those things that we need the Lord’s help. That’s what He promises to us.
  - Or we can still cast wider net to the whole book of Matthew and look for the meaning of “ask, seek & knock.” Refer Matthew 20:20-34

## I Our God’s Character

### 1. Giving

- **Illustration:** Investing in the stock - past performance?
- Our God gives everything at the beginning of the year unlike our company pays you at the end.
- Even though we failed many opportunities in the last years, our God wants to invest in our life.
- He is a forgiving God. His expectation is that we will be faithful steward of all that is going to be given this New Year.
- Our God love to give to His children who love Him.

### 2. Generous

- Note this promise of “Ask, seek & knock” is repeated twice to show us that our God is very generous.

- He doesn't withhold any good things from His children (Psalms 34:8-10; 84:11)
- Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to him who **is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine**, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

### 3. Gracious

- Our God remembers us that we live in this fallen world. He knows that our journey is long & dangerous.
- He gives every good thing based on His faithfulness alone.
- Matthew 11:28 - The Great Invitation - Come to Me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

## II Our Commitment

- **Illustration:** Matthew 20:29-34 (Mark 10:46-52) - The healing of blind men
1. Cry out to Him (v30)
    - Will you pray daily? Will you pray with others? Will you pray for others?
    - When we cry out to the Lord, He will change our condition. Will you follow Him?
  2. Continue in your faith (v34)
    - Will you follow the Lord faithfully wherever He leads you? Will you seek His kingdom first?
  3. Carry His message (v34)
    - Note the command "Go" in Mark 10:52
    - Will you share your testimony to others?

## Conclusion

- What can you ask, seek & knock today?
  - From our Lord's prayer (Matthew 6:9-15):
    - Our daily bread, forgiveness and protection