

# Walking in the *Foot Prints* of Jesus

*A Discipleship Journey*



## **Sermon on the Mount**

Week 27

Ask, Seek, Knock

Matthew 7:7 - 11

### Opening Prayer:

God our Father,  
Your Son Jesus called his disciples and said,  
"You did not choose Me, but I chose You."  
I thank You that You consider me  
worthy to be a disciple of Jesus.  
Transform me, Father, into the image of Jesus

Just like Jesus,  
Make my heart long for You in **poverty of spirit**.  
Make my heart **mourn** at the misfortune of others.  
Make me **meek and humble of heart**.  
Make me **hunger and thirst** for what is right.  
Make me **merciful** and overflowing with compassion.  
Make me **clean of heart** and share in Your holiness.  
Make my life an instrument of **peace** and **reconciliation**.  
Make me **bold** to face the consequences of discipleship.

Grant me the grace, Father, so that  
I may **think** like Jesus, **act** like Jesus, and **talk** like Jesus,  
for in this is **Radical Discipleship**

I make this prayer in the name of Jesus,  
Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

## Reflection

Maybe at this point in our reflections we might be thinking, “this stuff is just too hard to do!” After all, Jesus asks us to: be meek and merciful, tend to our saltiness, make sure our wick is trimmed and oil filled, put God first in all that we do, tend to the plank in our own eye and meet people where they are so we can accompany them on their faith journey. This is certainly an abundance of guidelines and directives to juggle! Though it may feel overwhelming and beyond our human ability, in this next passage, Jesus gives us one of the most gracious promises in all of Scripture:

*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. Everyone who asks receives; everyone who seeks finds; everyone who knocks will have the door opened. Is there anyone among you who would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or would hand him a snake when he asked for a fish? If you, then, evil as you are, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!*

Matthew 7:7 - 11

So much of our own personal transformation is hindered by our belief that we do all this on our own, that we bear the weight of these teachings on our own. We pray for help but then, in the midst of a struggle, we forget that we are receiving the very help we asked for. For example, we pray to grow in patience then get frustrated and angry with traffic when rushing to an appointment; we forget that God is trying to help us learn patience. Or perhaps we pray to reduce our anxiety about a situation but then impulsively control and manipulate things to achieve a specific outcome, forgetting that part of learning to trust in God is letting go. Or maybe we pray for a very specific outcome and, being so focused on that outcome, miss the many ways God is trying to answer our prayer. In the end, we sometimes are left with the sense that God isn't answering our prayer.

The question isn't whether God will answer our prayers, but rather, are we ready to receive His answer:

- When we ask, can we trust in what God wants to give us?
- When we seek, will we believe in what God is presenting us?
- When we knock, will we accept what is on the other side of the door?

You see, God wants to *give good things to those who ask him* but may wait until we recognize our need for Him. God desires that we turn to Him in humility and open our hearts to what He wants to offer us. Or perhaps God is answering in a way that looks really different from what we expect or thought we wanted. God always has our best interest at heart.

So, in prayer, rather than striving to convince God of what we need, perhaps we open our heart, submit ourselves to Him and trust that He will provide what is best. God wants to give us every good thing and just asks for our trust and love in return. Ask, seek and knock. Everyone who asks receives, everyone who seeks finds, everyone who knocks will be answered.

*Reflection Question:* What is that one thing that I am asking God for? How will I accept His response?

## Closing Prayer

Speak to Jesus about what is on your heart, then rest in silence for a few moments listening for His response.