

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

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Lin Zhang

**Sermon series:** Sermon on the Mount (DIFFERENT)

**Sermon title:** Ask, and It Will Be Given

**Scripture reading:** Matthew 7:7-11

Over the past weeks, we have gone through [Matthew 6, and 7:1-6](#). They are talking about different topics, but they share a similar structure. That is,

**Do not** give to the needy, **do not** pray, and **do not** fast like the actors; **do not** lay up treasures on earth; **do not** be anxious; **do not** judge others.

It includes religious practices, and our relationships with money, ourselves, and others. People at that age have practiced these things wrongly, so Jesus taught them to **be different**.

Be different. Give to the needy, pray to your Father, and do your fast in secret. Be different. Lay up treasures in Heaven, seek the kingdom of God, take the log out of our eyes.

These differences show we are the disciples of Jesus!

Then the problem is: how can we be different? In today's sermon, we will look at the answer from Jesus Christ.

Today's scripture is Matthew 7:7-11.

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!

By reading the scripture, it is not hard to find that the most frequently used words are “**ask**” and “**give**”.

v7 **ask**, and it will be **given** to you  
v8 everyone who **asks** receives  
v9 which one of you, if his son **asks** for a fish, will **give** him a stone;  
v10 or if he **asks** for a fish, will **give** him a serpent?  
v11 if you know how to **give** good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father **give** good things to those who **ask** him!

So the first thing we will see today is: the promise between asking and giving.

## I. The Promise between Asking and Giving

In verse 7, Jesus made a promise between asking and giving. What does that promise look like?

v7 Ask, and it will be given to you;  
seek, and you will find;  
knock, and it will be opened to you.

The promise is clear. If you **ask**, it **will be given** to you. To make it even clearer, Jesus added another two phases: if you **seek**, you **will find**; and if you **knock**, the door **will be opened** to you.

The former part is present tense, if you ask now, if you seek now, and if you knock now. The latter part is future tense, it will be given to you, it will be found by you, and the door will be opened to you. All of them mean that the things will be done.

So it is a promise. It is promised to be given to you if you ask. It is promised to be found if you seek. It is promised to be opened to you if you knock.

Jesus provided a promise between asking and giving. That is, by asking, the giving will be done. The promise was provided to “you”, which directly refers to the audience at that time. But it is not limited to them.

In verse 8,

v8 For everyone who asks receives,  
and the one who seeks finds,  
and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

Now Jesus gave the same promise to everyone: to everyone who asks, to everyone who seeks, and to everyone who knocks!

The promise is open to everyone, including all of us. The promise is true to everyone. By asking, the giving will be done.

Well, the promise sounds perfect. But how can Jesus make such a promise? The answer depends on who you are asking.

## **II. The Relationship between Son and Father**

In verses 9-11:

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!

First, Jesus reminded fathers among the audience that they know how to give good gifts to their children. They are fathers, and they love their children. So when their children come and ask, they will give. They will give good things to their children.

You as fathers will not give a stone when your kids ask for bread. You will not give a fish when your kids ask for a serpent. Also the parallel script [Luke 11:12](#) says, you will not give a scorpion when your kids ask for an egg.

Bread, fish, and eggs are good. They are our daily food. But stone is not good, we cannot eat stone. The serpent and scorpion are not edible and even poisonous.

Jesus told us a fact. Even though we are evil, we are very selfish, we love our children. When they come and ask, we know how to give good gifts to them.

This fact points to something bigger. If you as fathers 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!

We are evil, as fathers, we know how to give good things to our children. How much more our heavenly father, who is perfect, will give us good things when we ask.

So Jesus gave us a promise between asking and giving. The promise is true, because it is based on who we are asking. We ask our Father in heaven, who loves us, and his love is perfect. We ask Him, and He will give.

The promise is true, because the asking and giving happens between the son and Father. Jesus is not saying: ask anyone, and it will be given to you. It is asking by a son, and giving by his Father.

Just like the story of the prodigal son in [Luke 15:11-32](#), the younger son had spent everything, when he went back to his father, the father gave him **the best** robe, put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. They eat and celebrate, for his son who was lost now is found. This is the love of a father for his son.

Brothers and sisters, do you believe when you ask, it will be given to you? Or do you believe when you ask God, you are asking your Father who is in heaven?

### **III. Ask, and It Will Be Given to You**

Now we know Jesus was saying: ask your Father who is in heaven, and it will be given to you. The last problem is: what are we asking for and what will be given to us?

On one hand, asking God means praying to God. In [Matthew 6:5-16](#), we have the sermon on how not to pray

and how to pray. Jesus gave us an example of what to pray for. We can ask God for the coming of his Kingdom, for our daily bread, forgiveness, and protection.

They are good things. They are good gifts from God. Ask, and they will be given to you.

On the other hand, do you still remember the problem I asked in the beginning? We should give differently, pray differently, and fast differently. We should have different behaviours with money, anxiety, and judgement. These differences show that we are disciples of Jesus. But how can we be different?

Is it just a matter of developing a good habit? Of course not, we know Jesus is talking about our heart issue. If our heart is not changed, the harder we try to be different, the more we act like hypocrites! Clean the outside, but the inside is full of wickedness.

Jeremiah 13:23 says,

Can a man (the Ethiopian) change his skin or the leopard his spots? Then also you can do good who are accustomed to do evil.

It is impossible to be different by ourselves. Then how can we be different?

Jesus's answer is: ask, and it will be given to you. Ask, and you will be different. The parallel script Luke 11:13 says it clearly:

How much more will the heavenly Father give the **Holy Spirit** to those who ask him!

Ask, the Holy Spirit will be given to you. The Holy Spirit is the best gift from our Heavenly Father.

John 3:3 unless one is **born again** he cannot see the kingdom of God

v4 **How can** a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?

v5 unless one is **born of water and the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

How can we be born again by ourselves? It is a miracle. It is the work of the Holy Spirit. And Jesus gave us the promise: ask, the Holy Spirit will be given to you.

Ezekiel 36:26 I will give you **a new heart**, and **a new spirit** I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.



Ask, and a new heart will be given to you. Ask, and a new spirit will be put within you. Ask, and you can be different! For out of the new heart come different lives.

#### **IV. Applications**

Do you really believe the promise? Do you really believe God is our Father who is in Heaven? If you really believe the promise, you should ask. It is not only a fact, but also an **invitation**.

Jesus is encouraging us to keep praying by giving us the promise between asking and giving, and showing us the relationship between son and Father.

If you are not a Christian yet, the promise is open to you. Come to us, and we are willing to tell you what Jesus had done to save us. Pray to God, ask to be different, and it will be given to you.

If you are a Christian, remember we are disciples of Jesus Christ. We should be different from the world. If not, pray to be different. We should always pray and not give up. Let's pray.

Heavenly Father, thank you for today's message. May your Holy Spirit be with us. Please help us be different. Be content with food and clothing. Be less anxious. Be more merciful. We ask for your help in all these things. We pray in Jesus's name, Amen.

Finally, if you are struggling with Jesus's teaching: do not lay up treasures on earth; do not be anxious; do not judge others. Please go to that passage, read it again, and pray to God, the Holy Spirit will help you. Amen.