

**Walking with Jesus - Part 9**  
**Receiving God's Good Gifts**  
**Dr. Derek Morris**

Preaching passage: Matt 7:7-11  
Subject: What happens when we ask, seek, and knock from our Father in heaven  
Complements: He will give us good gifts.  
Exegetical idea: When we ask, seek, and knock, our Father in heaven will give us good gifts.  
Homiletical idea: **Receive the good gifts that your Father in heaven has for you!**  
Purpose: To help my hearers to understand that the primary good gifts that our Father in heaven has for us our the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Introduction

My wife and I love to sing Scripture songs! That's no surprise to those of you who know us well! Bodil started composing Scripture songs about 20 years ago when our children were young and we've been singing Scripture songs ever since! As a result of those Scripture songs, my life and my family has been profoundly blessed by the Word of God!

But the first Scripture song that I memorized was several years before I even met the daring young American woman who would later become my wife! I had just committed my life to Jesus and I was a student at a Christian college in England. I had given away all of my secular music, and I was starting my walk with Jesus. This was the Scripture song that I learned. I didn't know at the time who composed the music, but the lyrics are the words of Jesus.

Sing it with me, if you know the song!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you

Seek, and ye shall find

Knock and it shall be opened unto you, Allelu, allelujah!

Those words of Jesus are recorded in Matthew 7: 7.

Those words of Jesus are taken from His great sermon on the mount. We have been studying this great sermon of Jesus from week to week in our series entitled Walking with Jesus, and today we are going to study the words of Jesus recorded in Matthew 7:7-11. If you have a copy of the great sermon of Jesus, I invite you to read the words of Jesus out loud with me.

Matthew 7:7. “.....” And then in the lyrics to her song, Karen Lafferty added the Hebrew word Alleluia, which means...? Praise the LORD!

Tell me, What is Jesus talking about here? (Repeat verse) Is Jesus telling us that we can ask for anything, and it will be given to us! Anything? Is Jesus telling us that we can seek for anything, and we will find it! That certainly hasn't worked for me on numerous occasions when I've lost things! Is Jesus telling us that we can knock on any door, and it will be opened for us! What do you think?

Fortunately, Jesus gives us a clue regarding **what** we should ask for, **what** we should seek, **what** we should knock on. Let's continue reading together, from Matthew 7:8.

“.....” Jesus uses an analogy from parenting. If your daughter asks for bread, will you give her a stone? If your son asks for a fish, will you give him a snake? What's the answer from a loving parent? No. You gladly give good gifts to your children. How much more, Jesus says, will your Father in heaven give good (gifts) to those who ask Him!

That expression “Father in heaven” is becoming quite familiar to us, isn't it? But don't forget that it is a brand new concept in the sermon on the mount. Jesus introduces us to God in a new and intimate way. Our Father in heaven. And so Jesus begins the wonderful model prayer that He taught His disciples with those words: “Our Father....in heaven. And we learned last week that we shouldn't be stressed out because we have a loving Father in heaven who will

care for us.

Here again in this portion of Jesus' great sermon on the mount we are reminded that we have a loving Father in heaven who will care for us. Ask, Jesus says. Seek. Knock. And if earthly parents love to give good gifts to their children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him.

So what are those good gifts that our Father in heaven wants us to ask for? What are those good gifts that our Father in heaven wants us to seek? What is it that our Father in heaven wants us to knock on? It has to be more than asking for a newer car or a pay raise at work! What are those good gifts that our Father in heaven wants us to ask for?

Any ideas? First, let me suggest that those good gifts are given in the context of our relationship with God as our Father in heaven. I want to propose to you today that there are **two** primary gifts that our Father in heaven has made available to us that we should ask for. Two primary gifts that we should personally receive. Neither of those two primary good gifts is mentioned specifically in this passage of Scripture, but both of those two primary gifts that our Father in heaven wants us to ask for are identified in the Word of God.

The first of those two gifts that our Father in heaven wants us to ask for is referred to in the words of Jesus, not here in His great sermon on the mount, but in another very well known passage of Scripture, John 3:16. Jesus is speaking here to a leader of the Jews named Nicodemus, and Jesus says, “.....”

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. I have a question for you. Was Jesus a good gift from our Father in heaven? Amen! Because with Jesus comes salvation! What did Jesus say in the second half of John 3:16? That whoever believes in Him should not

perish but have everlasting life! The primary good gift is not salvation, even though that is a wonderful gift! The primary good gift is not forgiveness for your sin and cleansing from your sin, even though those are also wonderful gifts. As good as those gifts are, the primary good gift is Jesus. Because without Jesus, there is no salvation. Without Jesus, there is no forgiveness. Without Jesus, there is no cleansing. There is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. Acts 4:12 The apostle Paul declared, “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved!”

The primary good gift from our Father in heaven is His own Son, Jesus! So ask for Jesus. Seek Jesus. Knock and it shall be opened to you. Knock on what?! Jesus says, “I am the door.” In other words, invite Jesus to be your Savior. Ask for Jesus. Seek Jesus. Receive Jesus. Today, in a very sacred service that Jesus gave His followers, we are going to all have the opportunity to receive our Father in heaven’s primary good gift. We are going to have the opportunity to say “Yes” to Jesus! If you have never received the good gift of Jesus from our Father in heaven, today is a day that angels will sing with joy for you! That what Jesus said happens when one sinner comes home, when one sinner repents and turns to Jesus as Savior and Lord.

And if you have been walking with Jesus for many years, if you have received that primary good gift of Jesus from our Father in heaven, you are going to have the opportunity today to say “Yes” again to Jesus. You are going to have the opportunity today to reaffirm your decision to receive God’s good gift of Jesus, not only to the “world”, but to you personally!

But Jesus is not the only good gift that our Father in heaven has provided for us. What

did Jesus say in his great sermon on the mount? Let's read Matthew 7:11 again. Let's read the words of Jesus out loud together. "....."

You say, "Pastor, Jesus said that our Father in heaven would give "good gifts", literally good things, to those who ask Him. We've learned that Jesus is God's primary good gift. But the text says "good gifts" or "good things". It's in the plural. That means that there is at least one other primary good gift that our Father in heaven wants to give to those who ask Him.

What is another primary good gift that our Father in heaven wants to give to us, if we ask? Well, we don't have to guess. Jesus gives us the answer in another portion of the gospel record where He is restating the words found here in His great sermon on the mount. That restatement is found in Luke 11:9-13. There are some variations in the wording in this restatement by Jesus. It starts out the same, in Luke 11:9. "Ask and it will be given to you. Seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." But there is a variation in verses 11 and 12 of Luke 11. "....."

But the most important variation in Luke's record of this restatement by Jesus is the amplification provided by Jesus in Luke 11:13. Listen to the restatement by Jesus of the words also found in His great sermon on the mount. "....."

Instead of simply referring to "good things" or "good gifts" that our Father in heaven will give to those who ask Him, Jesus specifically names one of those primary good gifts. Did you notice that amplification in this restatement by Jesus? That's right. How much more will your heavenly Father give **the Holy Spirit** to those who ask Him.

A second primary good gift that our Father in heaven wants to give to those who ask Him is the gift of the Holy Spirit. What does Jesus mean when He says that our Father in heaven will

give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him? Well, let's listen to the testimony of the apostle Peter on the day of Pentecost. In Acts 2:38-39, we read, "....."

What happens to followers of Jesus, when they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit? Jesus answers that question in Acts 1:8. "....." That testimony of Jesus is confirmed in Acts 4:31, where Dr. Luke records concerning the followers of Jesus, "....."

The followers of Jesus were even enabled to speak the Word of God boldly, even in other languages that they had not learned, according to Acts 2, because they had received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Those present on the day of Pentecost declared, "We hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." Acts 2:11

What an amazing gift! No. I'm not referring to the gift of speaking the Word of God boldly. Though that is an amazing gift. I'm not even referring to the gift of speaking in other tongues. Though that is also a marvelous gift. But I'm speaking about the other primary good gift that our Father in heaven will give to those who ask Him—the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Today, we are going to celebrate a sacred service that Jesus gave to His followers. Jesus took unleavened bread and unfermented wine and said, "This is my body. This is my blood" Jesus wasn't saying that the bread was real flesh and the grape juice real blood. They are symbols. And in taking these symbols, His followers had the opportunity to say "Yes" to God's good gift—the gift of Jesus as their Savior.

We're going to have the opportunity to receive those symbols of Jesus' broken body and shed blood today. We are going to have the opportunity to receive our Father in heaven's good gift—the gift of His Son, Jesus.

And when you receive those symbols, when you say “Yes” to God’s good gift of Jesus, I want to invite you in a time of personal prayer to also say “Yes” to our Father in heaven’s other primary good gift. Who is that other primary good gift? The Holy Spirit. As you receive the symbols of the bread and the wine, and as you say “Yes” to Jesus, I want to invite you in a time of personal prayer to also say “Yes” to the good gift of the Holy Spirit.

In preparation for this special service, I want us to pray a prayer of confession. When Jesus washed His disciples feet in preparation for this sacred service of communion, He was reminding them of the cleansing that He offers. Forgiveness and cleansing from sin. So I invite you to take some personal time now to confess your sins and ask Jesus to forgive you and make you clean. Then I’m going to pray a special over our lives and over these symbols of the broken body and shed blood of Jesus, and pray for a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit’s presence in our lives and in our midst as we receive God’s good gifts.

Our Father in Heaven, Thank you that You loved the world so much that You gave Your only begotten Son to save us from our sin. Please bless these symbols of the broken body and shed blood of Jesus, and thank you for saving us from our sin. Thank you that you forgive us and cleanse us from every sin that we may receive these symbols with joy and peace in our hearts. And thank you that we can also say “Yes” to the gift of the Holy Spirit to be with us and in us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

And now, I invite you to receive the good gifts that your Father in heaven has for you!

(Share in the communion service together).

Remember that Scripture song that I learned as a young Christian? Ask and it shall be given to you..... I found out later that the composer of that Scripture song, Karen Lafferty, had grown up in a Christian family, but in her teens and college years she had drifted away from Jesus. She was actually working in a nightclub in New Orleans not long before she wrote this song. But thank God, a friend came to her, and invited her to walk with Jesus again. A friend came to her and invited her to receive God's good gifts. And today, 35 years later, Karen is still walking with Jesus. And I say, Hallelujah! What do you say?

I'm thankful that you took the opportunity to receive God's good gifts today. And as we close this sacred service, I invite you to sing again the invitation of Jesus found in His great sermon on the mount:

Ask, and it shall be given unto you

Seek, and ye shall find

Knock and it shall be opened unto you, Allelu, allelujah!