





How Much More?

Matthew 7:7-11
Luke 11:5-13

Parables of Jesus

Today we will be talking about a parable. What is a parable? A parable is a story with another meaning; or a story told to illustrate a lesson.

Discuss:

Have you ever received a gift? What was it? Was it for a special occasion?

Have you ever asked for something special from your parents and opened the present to find a rock?

Have you ever told your mom you were hungry for some bread, and she went outside and gave you rocks on your plate? Have you said you were hungry and she gave you a snake? If you asked for fish or chicken for dinner, would she give you a scorpion?

Jesus is telling a story about praying, and what we ask for.

He tells a story about someone who has visitors come to his house late at night. What if this were you? You had a friend who has been traveling all day, and shows up very late one night at your house. He's hungry, and you have nothing to feed him. It's late, the stores are closed, and you have no food. But you know that your friend who lives nearby probably has some food.

You go knock on your friend's door (illustrate knocking) and ask him for some bread. You tell him you need three loaves of bread to feed your visitors. You ask him nicely, saying: please, help me, my guests are hungry.

What is your friend going to say?

What would your friends say? What would you say?

In this story, the friend said, " No. Leave me alone. "

Do you have friends like this?

This friend said: It's late. My kids are asleep. I don't want to get up, I don't want to wake them up, Don't bother me.

But, what are you going to do? Are you going to keep knocking?

What do you think this person did?

This person kept knocking. And Jesus said, because he was persistent, he kept knocking, he kept asking, and the friend finally got out of bed and gave it to him because he bothered him so much.

He reluctantly got up and gave him everything he asked for.

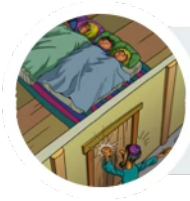
Do you have friends like this? Sometimes people are like this. They don't want to do something, but they will do it just because they want you to stop bothering them and leave them alone.

Discuss:

Is God like this? What do you think?

Do we have to keep asking and bothering God so that he will give us what we ask for?

No, this is not how God is.



How Much More?

If you knock on Jesus' door, what will happen? Will he say, "Go away!"? Will he say, "This is not a good time, leave me alone!"? What happens if we knock on the door seeking Jesus? Will he say come in? Will he open the door?

Jesus said, if you knock it will be opened to you.

Everyone that asks receives. Everyone that seeks will find. To him that knocks it will be opened.

Does God say no? What if we ask for something and we don't get it?

There is a verse that says if we ask for something and we do not receive it, it's because we are asking for the wrong things (James 4:3).

If you are angry at someone and you ask for God to punish them, will God answer that? No, because it is not in his will. When you pray, it needs to be something that God wants for you.

There is another verse about how we ask. It says when we ask, to ask in faith without doubting.

If you ask and doubt, do not expect to receive from God (James 1:6-8).

God will give us things because he cares about us, and he blesses us and gives us things we don't need. There was a time when God reminded King David of all the things he had given him. He even told him, if that wasn't enough, I would have given you more. So, God does not just give us only things we have to have, but he wants us to pray for things that are in God's will. He wants to bless us, but not when it would bring harm to someone else (2 Samuel 12:8).

Jesus talks about gifts.

He says, if you ask for bread from your dad, will he give you a rock?

If you ask your dad for a fish, would he give you a snake? Would you want a snake?

If you ask your dad for an egg, would he give you a scorpion? Would a good dad do that? Would you want a scorpion?

Then Jesus talks about God. He is comparing God to people.

Without Jesus, are we good? Compared to God, are we good? Can we ever be good enough without Jesus?

No. Everyone has sinned, and the only way to get to God is through Jesus (John 14:6; Romans 3:23). Jesus died for our sins, and compared to Jesus, we are evil. Without Jesus, we are sinners.

Jesus says, if you, who are evil compared to God, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will God give things to those who ask of him?

This story is not saying that we have to be persistent and if we annoy God so much, and keep bothering him, that he will answer us and give us what we ask for. The story is contrasting God to a person. It is saying, you can bother your friends so much that they will finally give you what you ask for just to get you to go away. But God is not like that. You ask God, and he wants to answer you. He wants to bless you. He wants to give things to you because he gives good gifts.



How Much More?

The Bible tells us what kind of gifts that God gives. Every good gift, and every perfect gift is from above (James 1:17).

If something bad happens to you, is it from God? (No)

Does God put bad things on you to teach you things? (No).

The bad things that happen in this world is because we have an enemy (John 10:10: 1 Peter 5:8).

The thief is the one who comes to steal, kill and destroy you, and Jesus came to give you abundant life.

Every good and perfect gift comes from God, and it says that God does not change (James 1:17). He does not change his mind, he does not act one way one day, and act different another day.

Do you know people who get in a bad mood? Sometimes they're mean, and sometimes they are nice? God is never in a bad mood. He does not change his mind; he is not going to decide whether or not to answer your prayer because of his mood, or because of whether or not you were good enough. He answers your prayers and responds to you because of Jesus (Romans 3:22-24, 28; Romans 5:1,17-18).

How much better is God?

How much more will he give you good gifts than the friend who finally gets out of bed and gives you what you ask for just to get you to go away?

God says yes. You asked me, let me give it to you. You're looking for me, here I am. If you start seeking God and looking for him in your life, he will come.

In all your ways acknowledge him.

If you start looking for all the ways you can recognize God in your life and you start giving him glory, he will tell you where to go (Proverbs 3:5-6) and he will direct your path.

Discuss:

What are some ways that we can look for something that God did for us today?

What are some things that God has done for you this week or recently?

What are some things that God has done in your life?

When we start looking, we can find all kinds of things to praise God for.

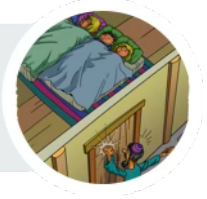
Jesus finishes this by saying,

Do for others what you want them to do for you: this is the meaning of the Law of Moses and of the teachings of the prophets.

This is also known as the golden rule. Treat others the way you want to be treated. Do not respond and say, they did this to me, I'm just doing what they did. That is what sets us apart as followers of Jesus. We don't retaliate, but we respond differently than everyone else.

We respond the way that we WANT to be treated, not the way that we were treated.

Jesus in the Story



Righteousness is the state of being in a condition that is acceptable to God. It is being in “right standing” with God.

It is because of Jesus that this whole story is true. It is because of Jesus that we can relate to God in a completely different way.

Because of Jesus’s death and resurrection, we are able to have new life and a new Spirit in us by faith in Him.

When we place our faith in Jesus, we receive his righteousness (Romans 4:3,5).

It is not by the things that we do that God sees us. He knows that in ourselves we are nothing, but with Jesus we are complete. It is by our faith only, not by our works.

Our faith brings us into right-standing with God, and he gives us the righteousness of Jesus.

Jesus became sin for us, and through faith in him we receive his righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21).

God is no longer judging us according to our actions, but giving us grace because of Jesus.

This grace gives us all the privileges, all the rights, and all the benefits of living in the kingdom of heaven (Colossians 1:13).

The kingdom of heaven is not far off in the future, Jesus told his followers frequently that the kingdom of heaven is “at hand,” (Matthew 10:7). Jesus brought the kingdom of heaven to this earth and those who believe in him are citizens of this kingdom.

We live on the earth, but we live by a different set of rules than the unbelievers who are outside of the kingdom.

Lesson Questions & Memory Verses

25. City On A Hill

1. In Matthew 5:13, to what did Jesus compare his followers?
2. What did he compare them to in verse 14?
3. In Matthew 5:15, what does he say that people do with a candle and why?
4. What will people do when they see our good works?

Philippians 2:14-15

Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.

26. When You Pray

Read Matthew 6:9-13

1. We are supposed to ask God for what to be done on earth and in heaven?
2. What does God want us to ask him for every day?
3. We are supposed to ask for forgiveness in the same way that we do what?

1 Timothy 2:8

I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

27. Into the Ditch

1. What do people try to pull out of other's eyes?
2. What does the scripture say is in our eye?
3. How can we see to take something out of someone else's eye?
4. Explain what you think this means.

Matthew 7:1-2

Judge not, that you not be judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

28. How Much More?

1. If we ask, what will happen?
2. What happens for everyone that asks?
3. What happens for everyone that seeks?
4. What happens when we knock?

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.



