



SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

Sermon: **“Exhausting Yourself in Seeking” (Matthew 7:7-11)**

Date: **February 10, 2019**

As we continue our study in the Sermon on the Mount, we come to a very important passage this week in Matthew 7:7-11. So far in his famous sermon, Jesus has emphasized on several occasions the importance of seeking after righteousness. Without righteousness, we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:20). Thus, we ought to pursue the righteousness of God before we pursue anything else (Matthew 6:33). This pursuit of God and his righteousness should affect everything in our lives, including how we pray. In this week’s text, Jesus, appealing to the goodness of God, gives us an astounding promise, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” We will learn what he means by this and we will also consider how the goodness of God ought to affect our prayer life and motivate our pursuit of him.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Matthew 7:7-11 and ensure that you’ve listened to Sunday’s sermon.
 - a. What are some things that Jesus has specifically told us *not* to seek so far in the Sermon on the Mount? What has he told us that we *should* seek?
 - b. What are the three verbs in verse 11? What are these verbs emphasizing to us?
 - c. Look up Jeremiah 29:13. What does this verse teach us and how does it relate to Matthew 7:7-11?
 - d. How can we evaluate how we are doing at seeking the Lord? What are some ways in which we ought to be seeking the Lord?
 - e. If we seek the Lord and regularly petition him in prayer, what does the Father *promise* in return according to verses 7-8?
 - f. Describe the relationship between our trust in God and our obedience to this principle in verses 7-8.



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- g. Explain the meaning/significance of the two rhetorical questions that Jesus gives in verses 9-10.
- h. What does verse 11 teach us about the Father? What does it teach us about ourselves?
- i. Look up Romans 8:32 and consider how it relates to Matthew 7:11. Explain how the gospel itself should motivate us to seek the Lord continually.

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. Jesus urges us to persist in seeking after the Lord. What are some reasons we sometimes lack persistence in seeking the Lord, especially in prayer?
3. How can we assess the level of trust we have in God? What does our pursuit of God tell us about our confidence in his goodness?
4. What are some other similar passages that speak about God's promises to answer prayer? Look them up and read them together.
5. What sorts of things should we ask the Lord for as we seek after him in prayer? Use Scripture to inform your answers.
6. Do you truly believe what Jesus says in verse 11? How should that impact your prayer life? What can we do to increase our confidence in God's goodness such that we "ask" more regularly?

Accountability Question

What do you need to regularly *ask* the Lord for in your life?