



May 11th, 2025

Sermon: A New Way Part 3: Ask, Seek, Knock

Main text: Matthew 7:7-11

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does this story tell me about God?

2. What does this story tell me about people (or about myself)?

3. If this is God's word for my life, how will I obey it?

4. Who am I, going to tell?

Key points, Questions and quotes to reflect on and discuss from Justine's message:

"Our passage today is about prayer. And in it, Jesus addresses three aspects of our prayer lives: **what we pray; how we pray;** and to **Whom we pray**. So, that's what we're going to look at this morning in our time together."

"This is our right response to Christ's invitation into the Kingdom. We ask, seek, and knock for the things of His kingdom. For His ways to be ours. For our hearts to desire what He does. To want what He wants. But we can't do this on our own."

Key Points...

1. Citizens of the kingdom recognize their deep need of God...

"...you can't measure up on your own. But God can. Hear that again, BUT GOD CAN."

John Stott, in his commentary on the Sermon on the Mount says this, "...the reason why God's giving depends on our asking is neither because he is ignorant until we inform him nor because he is reluctant until we persuade him. The reason has to do with us, not with him; the question is not whether he is ready to give, but whether we are ready to receive."

2. Citizens of the kingdom reorient their hearts towards God...

Scripture often links our seeking to chasing after those things our hearts most desire. Jesus has already warned us to be careful about what we treasure because, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21 NIV).

Pastor and author Joe Carter says this, "The primary purpose of prayer as a spiritual discipline is to help us conform our will to God's...so that whatever we are asking God for is rooted in the same seven words [Jesus prayed in the Garden]: Not my will, but yours be done." (Joe Carter, TGC)

3. Citizens of the kingdom respond to God's invitation.

"The Greek word for knock here describes the action of "knocking on a door, with the context of seeking entry or attention."

4. Citizens of the kingdom remember the goodness of God...

This is an invitation to pray like David, "Search me, God and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (Psalm 139:23-24 NIV).

3 Key questions to reflect on from this message...

1. What comes to mind when you think about God? What is your view of Him?
2. Do you trust God is good and knows what's best for you?
3. What steps can you take this week to seek His kingdom first and know the truth of His character?