

Sermon on the Mount
Christian Grace – Part 2
Matthew 7:7-11

Our society has created a concept of prayer that is generally more therapeutic than spiritual. For many people prayer is something done in a time of crisis that simply seeks to make us feel better about ourselves or our situation. Even people who have no background in religious practices or the Christian faith call on the nation to pray when disaster strikes. In this worldview, prayer becomes a connector to an inner self, rather than the Creator of the Universe.

1. God graciously gives us what we need when we ask.
2. God graciously reveals Himself when we seek Him.
3. God graciously allows access to Him when we knock.

Jesus speaks this kind of grace, this kind of unmerited favor into our culture that doesn't really like to ask for help from anyone. We tend to think we are self-sufficient and for many things in this world, we can be. But when it comes to His kingdom, when it comes to knowing God, when it comes to actually trusting in the gospel, it is imperative that we ask, we seek, and we knock. We cannot get to heaven on our own. Our merit is insufficient. We can only get there by His grace, by His all-sufficient merit.

Reflection

Take some time to consider the veracity of your prayer life. Do you regularly spend time with God, or is prayer something that has been relegated to crisis moments and meal blessings? What steps can you take to cultivate the type of prayer life and disposition of dependence that Jesus is describing in the Sermon on the Mount? What are some specific things that you can trust Jesus for this week, specific things for which you might ask? How do you know if God hears your prayers, and how do you know if He is answering them? Ask God to help you know not just how often to pray, but also the specific things for which you should be praying.