

## Flipped: The Upside Down Kingdom (God Wants You With Him!)

Andy Deane · 11/19/2023 · Matthew 7:7-14

Jesus will encourage us to seek Him, and give us the path, but we get to choose if we want to follow Him or not.

### **Jesus is positive about prayer, we should be too!**

Matthew 7:7-11, 7 *“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. 9 “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!*

- Jesus encourages us to pray by giving amazing promises. He doesn't use a guilt trip to convince us.
- It's a privilege to go to God in prayer by:
  - Ask because God gives us what is best for us.
  - Seek because God desires to be found by us.
  - Knock because God will answer the door for us.
- But who should have confidence to act this way with God? *“Everyone”* (v.8) - This promise is open to all.
- So our problem isn't: we're sinners, we're not invited, we don't know the way. Our problem is: we don't believe.
- God isn't ignorant or reluctant, but is waiting for us to be ready, and we show that we are ready by asking. Like any good parent God won't spoil us with gifts we won't use, and don't want.
- James 4:2, ... *You do not have because you do not ask God.*
- An earthly parent will try and help their kids. *“how much more”* (v.11) will our perfect heavenly Father.
- What is the best gift we can ask for? Luke 11:13 says it's the Holy Spirit Himself.
- *Father in heaven* (v.11) reminds us how simple prayer is: If we belong to Christ, God is our Father, we are his children, and prayer is coming to him with our requests.

### **Jesus is proactive about the law, we should be too!**

Matthew 7:12, 12 *So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.*

- What's the connection? If God is good to all who pray, then God's children should be good toward others too.
- It's as simple as using our imagination to put ourselves in someone else's shoes and think, “what I would want?”

### **Jesus is passionate about our choice, we should be too!**

Matthew 7:13-14, 13 *“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*

- Jesus is asking you to choose today: God's kingdom or the world's kingdom.
- John 10:9-10, 9 *I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life...to the full.*
- Acts 4:12, *Salvation is found in no one else...*
- If you put your trust in Christ today (or recently), text “JOURNEY” to (951)425-4425 so we can support you!

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### **REACHING THE NEXT GENERATION FOR CHRIST!**

We are so thankful for the excitement and encouraging feedback we've received about our REACH campaign. We can only accomplish such a great goal together, so we're asking each person to pray about their commitment.

**Please return your REACH pledge cards** next week in-person or online at <http://reach.go2cornerstone.com>.