



A just weight  
and balance

are the  
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- Matthew 7:7

**Ask**, and it shall  
be given you;

- **seek**, and ye  
shall find;

- **knock**, and it shall be  
opened unto you:

- Our Savior had been recommending a great many difficult duties to His disciples.
- It was very natural for Him to think they would be mightily discouraged.
- He is demanding their morals exceed the accepted standard of the day.

- **Now**, introduces them to **a loving heavenly Father.**

- Because it is so difficult for us, in our own power and wisdom, to obey the commands He has given.

- Jesus continues teaching on our relationships in the Kingdom of God, specifically our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

- Christ knew that it is only through total dependence on the Father (*being poor in spirit*) that we could ever hope to live out these values that He is calling us to.

- But that is not what Christ was teaching here.
  - This is not an unconditional promise.
- God will not turn God into some cosmic vending machine.
  - Just put in a prayer and He will dispense whatever blessing we desire.



- There are **4 limits** to this promise.
- And we have to use proper methods of **Biblical interpretation** to see them.

- 1st, look at the context-verses that come before and after.
- **2<sup>nd</sup>** Who is the audience for these verses?
- **3<sup>rd</sup>** Those who are already followers of Christ.
- **4<sup>th</sup>** This promise is only for believers.

- What has Christ already said about prayer in the Sermon on the Mount?
  - Matthew 6:9-13  
“*Your kingdom come, your will be done.”*
- When we pray we must pray in submission to the will of God, praying for His will not our own.

● ***“And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He will hear us.”***

**James 5:14**

- What have we just seen Christ talk about **seeking** in the Sermon on the Mount?

- Matthew 6:33

***“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.”***

- So when Christ says to ask, seek and knock.
- We must be sure that whatever it is that we are asking, is in line with God's kingdom and His righteousness.

- This means that when we come to God and ask we need to come and ask with right motives.
- “*You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.*”  
James 4:3

- Praying and asking in submission means that when we come and ask we need to be living in obedience.

- “*and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because*

*we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him.*”

1 John 3:22-23



- “Ask and you will receive,
  - seek and you will find,
- Knock and the door shall be opened.”
  - 
  - On the surface sounds wonderful,  
and is the basis for a lot of  
name it and claim it theology.
  - 
  - All you have to do is ask in faith and  
God will give you whatever you want.

- James 1:5 (KJV)
- If any of you lack wisdom,  
let him ask of God,  
that giveth to all men liberally,  
and upbraideth not;  
and it shall be given him.
- James is echoing  
what Jesus said in the  
Sermon On The Mount.

- The believer who seeks to obey the Word of God **must constantly**
  - **ask** for strength,
  - **seek** wisdom,
  - **knock** at God's door.

- Note that Christ bases prayer on the fatherhood of God (Matthew 7:9-11).
- As God's children, we may expect God to care for us and meet our needs.

- Any man who prays is bound to want to know to what kind of God he is praying.

- Is he praying to a grudging God out of whom every gift has to be squeezed and coerced?
- Is he praying to a God whose heart is so kind that he is more ready to give than we are to ask?

- Jesus came from a nation which loved prayer.
- The Jewish Rabbis said:
  - "*God is as near to his creatures as the ear to the mouth.*"

- Jesus' argument is very **simple**.
  - "**Is there a man who ever hates his son?**"
    - No loving father ever refused the best for his son;
    - And God the great Father will never refuse **the best for his children.**  
(Matthew 7:9-11)



- Prayer, by its very nature, admits one's dependence upon God on the basis of His continuing mercy.

- These three exhortations ask, seek, knock are but one.

- Intended for for God's believing people.

• # 1

- ***“You have only to ask  
and have,  
you have not  
because you ask not,”***

● **“Call unto Me,**  
***and I will answer you,***  
***and show you great***  
***and mighty things,***  
***which you***  
***do not know.”***

**Jeremiah 33:3.**

- It has always been God's desire to bless His Children.
- We find this in Exodus 25.

- The context here concerns the description of the tabernacle and specifically the key piece of furniture in the tabernacle, **the ark of the covenant.**
- On top of the ark is the **mercy seat,** flanked on either end by two cherubim (Ex. 25:19).
- At this very place, at the mercy seat, **God meets his people.**

•Exodus 25:17

**And thou shalt make  
a mercy seat  
of pure gold:**

•

25:18 **And thou shalt make  
two cherubims of gold,**

•

25:19 **And make one cherub  
on the one end, and the other cherub  
on the other end**

Exo 25:20 **And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings,**

25:21 **And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark;**

25:22 **And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat,**

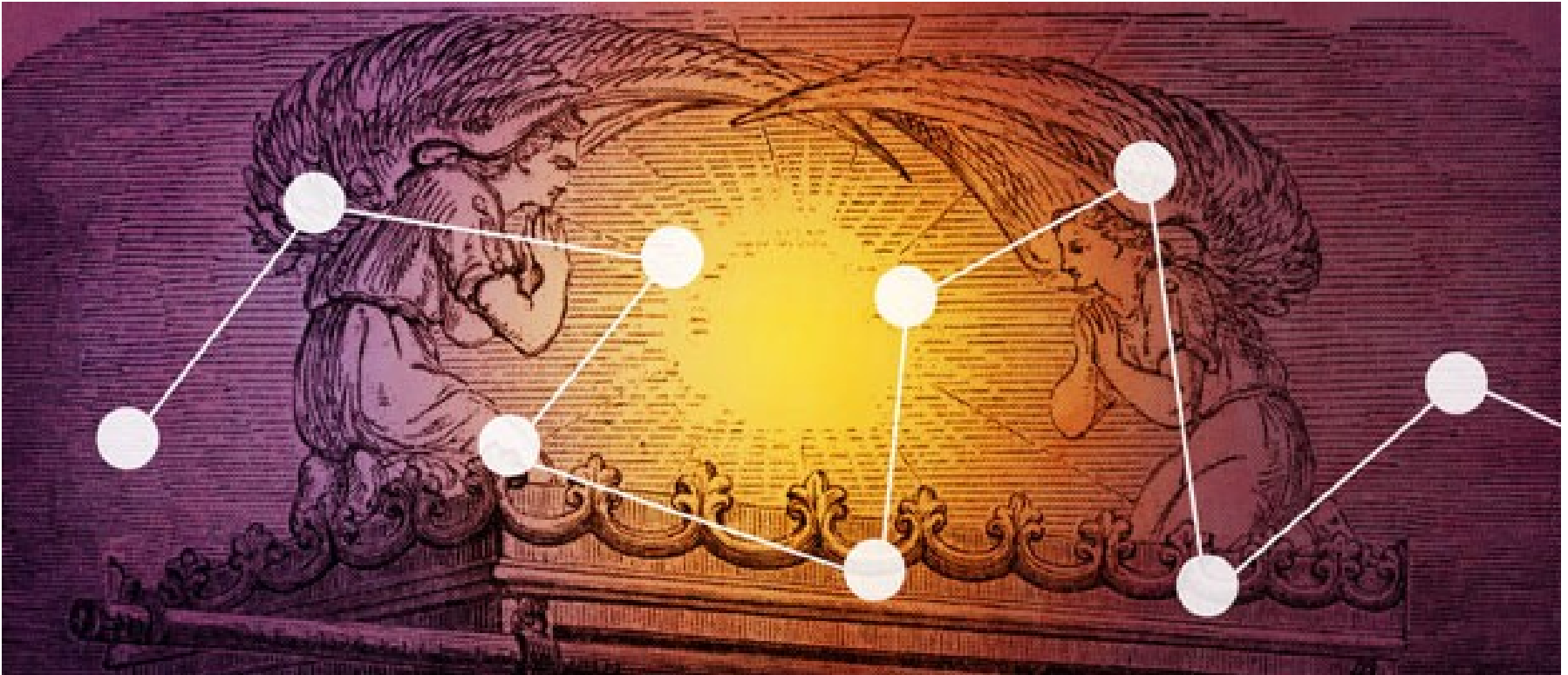


• We read in **John 20:12** that **Mary Magdalene** had come to the tomb of Christ only to find it empty.

• As she stooped down to look in,  
“***She saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet.***”

• Back in **Exodus 25**, two carved angels took their places **at either end of the mercy seat.**

We need only  
to connect the dots.



Is that not what Jesus is teaching us  
when He says Ask, Seek, Knock.

- # 2

- You have only to **seek**  
and you will be  
sure to find,  
**for holy things,**  
**like rare pearls,**  
are to be discovered  
if you look for them.

- Job 28:12 **But where shall wisdom be found?**
- 28:13 **Man knoweth not the price thereof;**
- 28:15 **It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver ...**
- 28:20 **Whence then cometh wisdom?**
- 28:23 **God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof.**

• Job 28: 28:28

**And unto man**

**he said,**

**Behold, the fear of the**

**Lord, that is wisdom;**

**and to depart from evil**

**is understanding.**

- Here our Lord encourages us to pray.
  - There is nothing so plain and simple as prayer.
  - Here our Lord assures us of God's readiness to hear and answer the prayers of his children.
    - Hebrews 4:16 (KJV)  
***Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.***

- Using the illustration of an earthly father,  
our blessed Redeemer assures us that our heavenly Father is predisposed to bless his children.
- Is a fallen, sinful man naturally predisposed to give good things to his children, simply because they are his children?

- Our heavenly Father, who, though unasked, has already given the greatest of all blessings in giving us his Son, will not withhold any good thing from us



- # 3

- You have only to knock and spiritual secrets shall open to you, even the innermost truth of God.”

- Isaiah 34:16

*Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read:  
no one of these shall fail,...*

• Isaiah 55:6

Seek

ye the LORD  
while he may be  
found, call ye  
upon him  
while he is near:

- God gives knowledge and grace to those that search the scriptures, and wait at Wisdom's gates.

- Colossians 2:3  
*In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

• Colossians 2:3

*In whom are hid  
all the treasures  
of wisdom and knowledge.*

• These two words do not simply repeat each other;  
there is a difference  
between them.

- **Knowledge**

is the power

**to grasp the truth**

when we see it and hear it.

- **Wisdom**

is taking that knowledge

so that one

**is enabled to give a reason**

**for the hope that is in him.**<sup>45</sup>

- All this wisdom is hidden in Christ.

- Romans 8:5-6

*For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.*

- 8:6 *For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

- It is prayer that opens the door to this wisdom.

- One asking, seeking, knocking is definitely moving in the right direction to defeat the “*carnal mind*”.

- Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and  
Father of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, who hath  
blessed us with  
all spiritual blessings  
in heavenly places  
in Christ:



- There is but a single condition laid upon this precious proposition, namely, that we should ask intelligently.
- It's all right for a son to ask for "bread".
  - God will give him that!
  - But if he asks for a "stone".
    - God will not do that.

- It is all right for a child to ask for “fish”.
- But if he ask for a “serpent”,
  - God will answer “no”.
  - There are many things that are not for our good.
    - For them,  
it is foolish to pray.

- **Wisdom** is with God, and all goodness is in Him,
- He **cannot** grant a prayer that will lead to harm, even if we desire it **in our ignorance.**
- Therein is one reason **why so many of our prayers go unanswered.**

• Isaiah 46:8-10

Remember this...

**for I am God,  
and there is no one else;  
I am God, and there is  
no one like me,  
declaring the end  
from the beginning,**

- Our text clearly presents the **fatherhood** of God.

- “***Our Father***  
***which art in Heaven***”.

- Then, we must approach Him

- as a child**

- approaches his father.

- **We must defer to His judgment**  
as to what is for our good.

- **He answers us**

just as perfectly

when

He says “**no**”

as He does

when He says “**yes**”.

- It should never be forgotten that our God **is a God of wisdom,** as well as a God of grace and of love,
  - And that **His answers to prayer** are always in accord with His character.

- **The wise father**  
seeks to give  
what is **good**  
and to  
withhold what will **hurt**.
- That is the **God** we serve.
  - **Matthew 7:9-11**



- How many prayers have been answered in your life time?
- Thousands upon thousands no doubt.
  - Prayers for...
  - Forgiveness,
  - Safety,
  - Well-being,
  - Food, housing, etc.
- But when a prayer is not answered we forget that He has answered any prayer.

- Like a child who does not get his/her way immediately declares, “*You, don't love me!*”
  - Have you ever been guilty?

- **We must be cautious**  
how we derive  
arguments of our own  
from the analogy  
between  
God's attributes  
and those of man.

- For example, some would deny the existence of hell on these grounds.
- However, Jesus says that God will condemn the unrepentant sinner to an eternal hell.  
(Matthew 25:46)
- The fallacy in the argument consists in assuming that God is just like man.
  - Psalms 50:21  
“*you thought that I was altogether such an one as yourself*”

- Grace is a treasure in the hands of God Himself.
- It is not like silver or gold, to be dug out of the earth with hard labor.

- Ask
- Seek
- Knock

- The classic text for understanding God's grace is found in Psalm 136
  - Twenty-six times proclaiming that God's kindness and love are eternal.

- The psalmist makes it clear that God's kindness and faithfulness serves as the foundation for His actions and His character:

- It underlies His goodness  
(V.1);
- Supports His unchallenged position as God and Lord  
(V. 2-3);
- It is the basis for His great and wondrous acts in creation  
(V. :4-9)



- His delivering and redeeming  
His people from Pharaoh  
and the Red Sea  
(V.10-15);
- The reason for His guidance  
in the desert.  
(V.16);
  - His gift of land to Israel  
and defeat of their enemies  
(V.17-22)

- His ancient as well as His continuing deliverance of His people (V. 23-25);
- His rulership in heaven (V. 26).

• The entire  
span of creation

to

God's redemption plan,

is

touched upon  
in this psalm.

- It all happened,  
is happening,  
and will continue  
to happen  
because of the  
Lord's  
faithfulness and kindness.

- Matthew 7:7

- Ask

- Seek

- Knock

• Are

you

listening?

**Doors of the church  
are open.**

**Spirit & Bride Say**

**“Come”**

**Revelation 22:17**

- 06-11-2017 Tryon, NC