



EXPLORE THE BIBLE[®]

1, 2 Kings Sermon Series

Supports Session 1: Granted

Sermon Title: “God Hears Our Prayers” (Matthew 7:7-12)

Connection to 1 Kings 3:4-15

Solomon was a man of great wisdom. This wisdom did not come from books read, but rather through a conversation he had with God. He asked God for wisdom and God granted his request and much more. We too can ask God for things; it is called prayer. Jesus invited us to talk to God and we can know that God hears us when we speak to Him.

Introduction/Opening

Most of us have felt like our prayers were bouncing off the ceiling. We keep talking to God, but we do not know if He is hearing us. We keep asking Him for something specific and yet we are unable to see a specific answer to the request. We may have even reached a point of not being sure if He cares enough to respond to our request. Today’s passage shows that not only does He hear, He also cares deeply about us and our request.

Outline

1. Our call to prayer (7-8)

a) We are to ask. In 1 Kings 3 we find a conversation between God and Solomon. In this conversation, God asked Solomon what He should give to the new king. The passage we are looking at in this morning’s sermon, Jesus told His followers to ask, and it will be given to them. This should give all of us reason to pause. We see both an Old Testament and a New Testament example of the word ask.

When Jesus spoke these words, they were not offered as a suggestion, but rather as a command. Jesus commands us to ask. Every command that Jesus uttered, He did so for our good. He would never have called His people to something that would be harmful. Therefore, asking is for our benefit as it develops our relationship with God.

b) We are to seek. The word *seek*, which was also written as a command, means to look for something until it is found. The word implies movement upon the part of the one seeking. Jesus used the same word in Matthew 6:33 when He said, “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.”

A part of praying is consistently seeking the will of the Father. This is not done passively, but rather actively engaging the Father through His Word to know and follow His will. We can be assured that His will can be known. God told Jeremiah, “You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all of your heart” (Jer. 29:13). Our seeking after Him is not in vain because He tells us that He can be found.

c) **We are to knock**. Those of us gentlemen who have a few gray hairs know what it is like to knock on the door of our date. We could not sit in the driveway and send our date a text letting her know that we were there. No, we had to go up to knock on the door and pray that her dad didn't answer. The amazing thing is that it was worth it. One of those dates ended up being the right one and you have been married to her for all these years.

After we have asked, and sought out his will, it is time to knock on the door. Yes, it might be a little scary. We might be afraid of what God might say. We might not be sure if we are at the right door or not. The wrong door is personal pleasure and personal wants. The only way to know if it is the right door is to ask, seek, and knock. Each of these actions are commands and Jesus would never command His followers to do something that did not benefit them.

2. God's response to our prayers

a) **He hears our prayers (v. 8)**. It can feel like God is not hearing our prayers, but we have complete guarantee that He does hear. Three words in verse 8 tell us that He is listening; those words being receives, finds, and opened. Each of the words are written as a statement of fact. If God was not listening, then we would not receive anything. If God did not hear our prayers, we would never find His will and He would not open the door to His will and plans for our lives.

b) **He answers our prayers (v. 9-11)**. Who has more fun, the one giving or the one receiving? The one giving gains joy as they watch the recipient open their gift and enjoy what they have received.

If we, who are evil, can give good gifts, how much more will our heavenly Father give us good gifts? God does answer our prayers. Sometimes He says yes, other times He says no, and He can also say not right now. We must trust in His goodness no matter the answer.

Conclusion

Asking, seeking, and knocking is not about trying to change God so that He will give us everything we think we want. Instead, prayer is about asking God to change us from the inside out so that we can be used for His glory. Solomon could have asked for anything, but he asked for God's wisdom. What would we be willing to ask for today? Does someone need to ask for salvation? Does someone need to ask for the strength to repent of sin? Let's ask and trust in His response.

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