

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

By Their Fruits

Matthew 7:7-20

Proverbs of Solomon, Sayings of Jesus - doctrine, teaching, word uttered by a living voice

A living God. One who speaks - God wants to speak to you, WITH you.

Isaiah 30:21 NKJV - Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This [is] the way, walk in it," Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.

Previously:

- Jesus left the crowds from the healings
- The Sermon on the Mount
- **Jesus says hard things: It's not condemnation, it's revelation.**
- Do Not Judge, The Holy and the Dogs

Today:

- Asking
- Narrow Way
- Knowing Someone by Fruits

Jesus continues to make distinctions between people who say they know God and people who actually know God.

Giving. Praying. Serving. Money. Judging. Fasting. Worldview.

Know of? Know about? Know personally?

Ginosko

The Bible is not about - rules to follow, works to earn salvation or even knowing about God

It's to know Him. Intimately. Personally. Completely.

When we die, there isn't a test. There isn't a secret handshake. There isn't a ticket to buy.

There's only a list. Those who knew Jesus and were written in the lamb's book of life.

And those who didn't.

[Pray]

7:7-11

Ask - to ask, beg, call for, crave, desire, require
Will be given

If we want something, need something. We just need to ask!

My daughter Elisha wanting a Gatorade, hovering

James 4:1-6 NKJV - Where do wars and fights [come] from among you? Do [they] not [come] from your [desires for] pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend [it] on your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"? But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

Being thankful, talking about it with kids Friday night

Seek - to seek in order to find, meditate, reasoning, strive after. Crave. Demand.

If we're demanding God do something, there's something gravely wrong with our relationship with him and our understanding of him.

Imagine my kids demanding something of me

1 - if they truly need it, would I withhold it?

Jake pants, Mia pants

2 - If they're demanding it from me, is it good for them?

a rebellious teenager, or a child asking for something they want so much that it's in the way of our relationship

Jacob wrestling with God

Genesis 32:24-30 NKJV - Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!" So He said to him, "What [is] your name?" He said, "Jacob." And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell [me] Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why [is] it [that] you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there. So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."

Knock - at the door

My office doors. Bosses with "open door policy"

Pastor's policy that his kids always have access to him

God wants you to ask Him

Why do we think He doesn't? What is our perception of God, who made everything, who loves us, that we can't ask Him?

I sent my son Jesus to die on the cross. Now don't ask from me anything ever again!

Where's the love in that?

In fact, because of Jesus, we can now ask God for anything and everything, and have full access.

Whatever God would do for Jesus, we have freedom to ask to do for us.

Because we come to Him in Jesus' name.

But this isn't designed to fulfill the flesh and its desires.

Even ungodly parents give good gifts. Christmas!

Even if God were selfish, he'd give you a good gift to get your favor, or make people think something about him, etc.

But he's not. He's good!

If we're not getting what we need. If we feel like we're missing out. Our desires aren't meant. Our life is falling apart. - That's good. That's opportunity for God to work.

Ask. Seek. Knock. Don't stop.

But also be prepared for your perception of your needs to change.

When I say no to my kids, I try to show them why. Not just hear a know, but help them see why that maybe their desire would change for the good.

Ask and expect to receive - maybe not exactly what you asked for, but something good from God

James 1:2-8 NKJV - My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have [its] perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything

from the Lord: [he is] a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

:12

Therefore (what is it there for?) because of all Jesus has shown us - Judging, asking

This is the law and prophets (the old testament!)

He's explaining the earthly purpose of the entire Bible - our relationship to others

Living like we actually know God, because we actually receive something from him.

Something to give to others in word and deed.

Have a love that the world doesn't recognize and can't emulate.

Do unto others - the golden rule

Think about how society would function with high trust!

The honor system

Walmart losing billions on self checkout theft

Stores closing

Street takeovers, looting

Locking up goods

Soon you'll only be able to buy and sell with a mark...

If you hit someone in an accident, and they just forgave you

If you're worried about the mistake you made at work, and they just help you instead of firing you

Imagine how much less laws we'd need. Less taxes. Less locks. Less fences.

But that's not the world we live in.

We are not of this world.

When we know God. When we trust Him to meet our needs. Then maybe we'll be the ones not stealing. Not suing people into oblivion. Not demanding our own way all the time and being offended when someone doesn't do it for us.

:13-14

Temple had gates, Jesus talks later in the gospels about them

Main entrance vs. back entrance

It's a trick! It's a trap! The easy way is not the right way!

Those who know God, make the hard decisions

- Cut off the wrong relationships
- Leave their desires to follow God's call
- Pursue heavenly riches at the expense of earthly fame
- Live for the next life, not for today
- Lay down their lives for their friends

**Two doors: one big, one small. One easy, one hard.
They don't lead to the same place!**

The road to hell is paved with good intentions.

Heaven will be full, but it has as much room as is needed.
Hell is never satisfied, always wants more to devour.

**There is a wall around heaven. There is a door to get in.
It's Jesus.**

You can't get there any way you want.
You can't live a life of sin and say you know God. (1 John)

There are far more unbelievers than believers. Don't expect our numbers to take over the world.
In fact, they'll fall away sharply in the last days.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 NKJV - Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. **Let no one deceive you by any means; for [that Day will not come] unless the falling away comes first,** and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains [will do so] until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the [lawless one] is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

There is a falling away happening these days
To go back to "orthodoxy" and "religion"

In part because protestantism has failed. Why has it failed?

Because many in the church did not know Jesus and seek to make Him Known.

Knowing the Bible is good, but knowing Jesus is better.

If knowing the Bible doesn't cause you to know Jesus better, then you're doing it wrong.

Know Jesus. Know Peace.

No Jesus. No peace.

Jesus himself said there are few that find it.

The few. The proud. The Marines.

We that have found it are soldiers in Jesus. And our lives cannot be dedicated to anything but BECAUSE we know him. Not a work. But because "where else could we go?"

:15-20

Sheep's clothing

They've devoured the sheep. They've been around them. And they're wearing their skin.

Wearing white wool, but they're not clean. They're there to ruin your faith, take your money, and use you up until there's nothing left but your empty, white robe.

How can we tell who the false prophets are?

Prophets stoned in the OT for giving false prophets

It's not so much what they say - whether it's right or wrong or comes true or not

Acts - Fortune telling girl

It's the fruit of it. Does it lead you to be closer, more dependent on God? Or them?

Do you need to join the cult? Or are you free to follow Jesus?

Shepherding movement

Galatians 5:19-25 NKJV - Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told [you] in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **But the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those [who are] Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Jesus says it's simple. Good trees bear good fruits. Bad trees bear bad fruits.

Crab apple

If someone's teaching is ruining your spiritual life, making you worried about a demon behind every rock, a generational curse on you, things that are clearly not scriptural. Well, it's obvious it's not from God.

The answer is oftentimes obvious, we just don't like what it means.

Like a bad relationship, they're just not the one. And you're not married to them. So off you go.

*People insisting you believe their pet doctrine, a biblical side-quest, in order to be saved
Rapture timing, baptism, list goes on.*

BUT DO YOU KNOW JESUS? WHY IS THIS NOT OUR PRIMARY CARE? DO WE KNOW HIM? IS HE BEING MADE KNOWN? IS HE BEING LIFTED UP THAT ALL MEN AND WOMEN MIGHT COME TO FAITH?

Cut down and thrown into the fire.

This is a shot across the bow of the Pharisees and Sadducees. They would lose their power, their influence on the people, and their destination is the one they said was for everyone else.

The day of Judgment coming will reveal what kind of tree we are

If we're ready for it, it'll be good fruit. And we'll want others to be ready too.

*** Now onto one of the scariest things Jesus has ever said ***