

Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 7:7-12 Bellevue Church of Christ – Winter 2015

Compare with
Luke 11:5-13

Jewish writers often used the passive voice reverentially to avoid writing God's name (7:1).

Why are we asking, seeking, and knocking?
Keep in mind the context of the entire sermon:
*The Kingdom of Heaven
*Righteousness
We should be constantly asking to receive, seeking to find, and knocking to open the righteousness that is required to be a part of God's kingdom.

7^c **Ask**, and it will be *given* to you; **seek**, and you will *find*; **knock**, and it will be *opened* to you.

8^f For *everyone* who **asks** *receives*, and the one who **seeks** *finds*, and to the one who **knocks** it will be *opened*.

One of the most pervasive teachings by Jesus on prayer is that **it will be heard**.
(**Matt 6:7-8**)

He repeats these three imperatives to emphasize this point! All of these are in present tense, which indicates continual action.

-**Luke 18:1-8**

Ask - What we wish or need to receive

-**James 1:5-7; 4:1-3**

Seek - What we are unable to find or what we miss

-**Jer 29:13**

Knock - Where we feel shut out

-*Luke records these three imperatives immediately after a parable about knocking on a friend's door at midnight. (Luke 11:5-13)*

Lit - To put the matter a different way

9^g **Or** which one of *you*, if his son asks him for *bread*, will give him a *stone*?

10^g **Or** if he asks for a *fish*, will give him a *serpent*?

Ecc 7:20
Rom 3:23



11^g If you then, *who are evil*, know how to give *good gifts* to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven *give good things* to those who **ask** him!

12^g So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the **Law and the Prophets**.

The "Golden Rule" summarizes our horizontal relationships with our fellow man in God's Kingdom
Rom 13:9; Gal 5:13-15; Jam 2:8

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Compare With

Luke 11:5–13 (ESV)

⁵ And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves,’⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; ⁷ and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? ⁸ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹ And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹² or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Passive Voice

Matthew 7:1 (ESV)

¹ “Judge not, that you be not judged.

Prayer Will Be Heard

Matthew 6:7–8 (ESV)

⁷ “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Persistence

Luke 18:1–8 (ESV)

¹ And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ² He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. ³ And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ ⁴ For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’” ⁶ And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷ And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? ⁸ I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

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Ask / Motive

James 1:5–7 (ESV)

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

James 4:1–3 (ESV)

¹ What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

Seek

Jeremiah 29:13 (ESV)

¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Who are Evil

Ecclesiastes 7:20 (ESV)

²⁰ Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.

Romans 3:23 (ESV)

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Golden Rule

Romans 13:9 (ESV)

⁹ For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Galatians 5:13–15 (ESV)

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

James 2:8 (ESV)

⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.