



Deep in the Bible

PODCAST

Jesus moves from judging others (7:1-6) to principles for nurturing two key relationships (6:9-15) as subjects in God's Kingdom

Healthy relationships WILL function in both directions



## Vertical Relationship (7-11)

How do we nurture our relationship with the Father?

-Jesus gives **three ways** we can **care for this relationship**.

\*All three of these are in the present tense in Greek, which indicates **continual action**.

### (1) Ask → Receive

-To nurture our relationship with the Father, we must be **constant in prayer**, communicating to God the needs and desires that are on our heart (Luke 18:1-8).

-When we pray, it should be according to His will, and we should expect that:

→ God will hear us (Matt 6:7-8; 1Jn 5:13-15)

→ God will provide an answer (1Jn 5:13-15)

-The more we **grow and mature in Christ**, the more we will be **attuned to the will of God**, just like a child continually learns and adapts to the will of their parents.

-Remember God's answer might not be what we are looking for.

-However, we can trust His answer will be best for our **eternal good** (Romans 8:26-28)

### Also Remember:

\*Ask in faith (James 1:6-7)

\*Ask with the **proper motives** (James 4:3)

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

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

Literally → To put the matter a different way

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

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

Arguing from the lesser to the greater (6:25-30):  
**Earthly father** → Give good gifts to our children

HOW MUCH MORE?

**Heavenly Father** → Give good things to those who ask

11"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!

Ecc 7:20  
Rom 3:23

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



## Horizontal Relationships (12) The "Golden Rule"

In view of our relationship with God, this principle should guide us in our relationships with our fellow man. If we applied this to everyone we encountered, how would our relationships be transformed?

-Known as the "Golden Rule" since the 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century. Jesus was not the first to present this concept, but **He WAS the first to offer it in a positive way**. Our relationship with God should compel us to be **proactive in our relationships with others**, not just avoid certain things (1 John 4:7-21).

-Compare to the command "love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18). This command was quoted by Jesus, Paul, and James. (Matthew 22:34-40; Romans 13:8-10; Galatians 5:13-15; James 2:8)

-Love for God and Love for others form the foundation of the **Law and the Prophets** (Matthew 22:34-40)

## Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 7:7-12

## Nurturing Kingdom Relationships

### (2) Seek → Find

-To nurture our relationship with the Father, we must constantly seek Him.

-Earnest seeking requires diligent work that never ceases.

-What are we seeking?

→ Truth/Relationship  
→ Salvation/Righteousness  
→ Opportunities (grow, serve, act)

Matt 5:6; 1 Chr 28:9; 2Chr 15:2; Prov 8:17; 34:10; Isa 55:6-9; Jer 29:13; Amos 5:4-6

-How do we seek?

→ Prioritize (Matthew 6:33)  
→ Study (Psalm 1:1-3; 2 Timothy 3:14-15)  
→ Pray (James 1:2-5)  
→ Look (Galatians 6:10)

God promises that if we seek Him, we **WILL** find Him!

### (3) Knock → Open

-To nurture our relationship with the Father, we must constantly take advantage of kingdom opportunities!

-In the New Testament the imagery of an **open door** represents **taking advantage of an opportunity**

→ Acts 14:27  
→ 1 Corinthians 16:8-9  
→ Colossians 16:8-9

-As we are seeking, God **WILL** present doors of opportunity

-If we **knock on the door** of those opportunities, God **WILL** open the door.

-Are we willing to knock on those doors and walk through them when God opens them?