

Living Lent | Day 8

Asking For Help

Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets."

Matthew 7:7–12 RSV

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

As I've gotten older, I've noticed this trend, I hate asking for help. Maybe you deal with this same idiosyncrasy, maybe you don't. But I'm sure you've experienced it. Why don't we ask for help? We might be independent spirits who like to figure things out on our own. We might enjoy casting the air of self-sufficiency and resourcefulness. Maybe we don't want to put others out. Or maybe we are simply stuck in pride and arrogance. Regardless, we end up hardly ever asking for help, until we REALLY need it.

Unfortunately, this same pattern often shows up in our relationship with God. We do pray and ask, but only for the big things. When we really need him. And the rest of the time, we operate under the guise of independent, self-sufficient zeal thinking, "God's got better things to do than to listen to my small needs."

But that is not what Jesus says. No, Jesus calls us to ask, to seek, to knock time and, out of God's genuine care and generosity, we will receive what we ask, find what we're looking for, and God will open the door. Notice Jesus doesn't put any guidelines on what to ask for (although other Scriptures do certainly point to "asking

with pure motives”). He just supplies the invitation. Do you have a need? Ask. Are you uncertain? Seek God! Need God’s help? Go knock on God’s door. By not asking we cut ourselves off, not from God’s care and generous goodness, they are always present. But we cut ourselves off from the awareness of God’s care and generous goodness.

And in a world which often has become so divisive and self-serving, a world that often gives genuine care and generous grace at anemic levels, how much more important is it for us, as Jesus’ church, to tap into the well of God’s unending care and generosity, for ourselves, but also for the world. For once full, we are called not just to treat people the way we want to be treated, but to treat people the way God has treated us. Loving and serving them, with the same care and generosity God shows us day after day. It isn’t always easy, some people are hard to love. Remember that we aren’t doing it out of our own power, but the power of our crucified and risen Lord Jesus.

We need only ask.

***Challenge to Prayer and the Exercise of the Privilege of Generosity:
Contributor and Contributing Body of Christ***

Rev. Justin Moser is a Jesus-loving husband and father of 2 boys who serves as the Associate and Youth Minister at First Baptist Church St Simons Island, a generous and friendly congregation that seeks to share Christ’s love with all people. What became known as First Baptist Church of St. Simons Island, has been the culmination of many years of working towards the goal of a beautiful house of worship on Ocean Boulevard just north of Demere Road. The groundbreaking was held on 18 April 1946, and the Church has increased in membership through the years and in their dedication to Community, including Morningstar Children’s Home. First Baptist SSI has a tradition of provision to the Morningstar Kids by treating them to a Thanksgiving Feast each year. What a delight!

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