

Notes for the word section week beginning Sunday 16th November

Ask, Seek, Knock

Read: Matthew 7:7-12

Summary:

We know that the Christian life is a journey, often not an easy one. In this section of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus is encouraging His disciples to keep on going, making sure they persist in prayer.

Realise our need As a society we like to suggest possibilities remedies for how things can be improved. We do not like to admit that we need help, that our best is not good enough. Yet Jesus would say that if we are man centred rather than God centred we are evil. We need to see our need for Jesus to save us.

Realise God is a Father It is so hard to grasp what God must be like.... He is God. Jesus uses the illustration of God as a Father. When we become Christians we can call God Dad! God is interested in us, He wants the best for us

Realise God never makes a mistake Earthly fathers can let us down and disappoint. They have limited knowledge and try their best. God knows everything is never taken back and has no regrets over choosing us!

Realise God has good gifts for us Earthly fathers though evil can give good gifts... how much more God. He wants us to ask, not because He needs to be told or nagged but because He loves us expressing our dependence upon Him.

The Golden Rule Jesus sums up the law and the prophets by saying do to others what you would want them to do to you. A radical high standard that should massively impact us and the way we relate to others. Being a Christian is not an individual set of ethics but a community changing faith.

Lets be those that seek after Him with all our hearts!

Application:

Please select from the following, encourage all to honestly take part and leave room to pray for one another at the end.

1. Was there anything shared that you found really helpful or anything really confusing?
2. What did God say to you and what are you going to do as a result?
3. Why even as Christians do we tend to try and be self-sufficient? How do we overcome this?
4. Have there been times in your life when you are tempted to think God has made a mistake? How have you coped in those times?
5. In what ways does the image of God as a Father help you or cause you difficulties?
6. If the Christian life is tough – why bother? Surely we get to heaven by saying sorry – why go through all the hard work?