

## **I. Review**

A. Wisdom and Exhortation for the Purposeful Gardener - Jesus has called us to a radical lifestyle of self-denial and wholehearted love. He knows our human frame better than we know ourselves and in His deep care for us He provides six exhortations that keep us anchored in intimacy and righteousness as we endeavor to live a SOTM lifestyle.

1. Judging in righteousness.
2. Relentless Dependence upon God.
3. Embracing the difficulty of the counter-cultural lifestyle.
4. Intentional community with people in like-minded pursuit.
5. Prioritizing the SOTM above all other forms of discipleship and ministry.
6. Assures our hearts that this lifestyle is the pinnacle of the wisdom of God.

## **II. Relentless Dependence Upon God (Mat. 7:7-11)**

A. You cannot study and understand the SOTM rightly without feeling the absolute crushing impossibility of walking it out. Everything he has exhorted us to develop in our hearts through the 8 beatitudes, the 6 toxic attitudes, and the 4 positioning activities are all opposite of our fallen nature. However, we are convinced that His words are true and lead us to the fullness of life and vibrant love we all so desperately desire to feel and know.

1. Holiness - The walking in the realities of the SOTM lifestyle could easily be summed up by the word, "holiness". We are destined and called to sanctification unto holiness, but God is after something even more precious in His sight than people walking in perfect holiness.

B. Intimacy - We must consider this passage in light of why God has ordained we go through the process of asking, seeking, and knocking in order to walk in holiness. In this consideration we find the glorious truth that God cares more about our nearness and communion with Him than instant sanctification. We must stop despising the limp of our unrighteousness. We begin to see that without our limp, we would most likely not have our arm reaching out around the shoulder of our God. (Gen. 32:24-31; Song 8:5; John 13:23-25)

- C. Jesus called us to ask and keep on asking, to seek and keep on seeking, and to knock and keep on knocking. The verbs are in the continuous present tense, indicating that it is something we are to do unceasingly. We find as we go through this lifestyle of the transformative work of the Holy Spirit in us that we cannot plumb the depths of love and that there are always deeper layers of His sanctifying work He wants to bring us into.
- D. Jesus exhorts us by giving us an increasing progression of leaning and depending upon His grace and transformative power to walk in this, the realities of the SOTM.
1. Ask - The word translated, “ask”, speaks of a casual desire almost in the realm of a “wish list”. When we ask, we make our requests known to God. (John 16:24; Col. 1:9; Jam. 4:2)
  2. Seek - The word translated, “seek”, speaks of intentional pursuit and requires more care and application than asking. We are focusing our strength and time to obtain that which we seek. (Pro. 2:4-5; Jer. 29:13)
  3. Knock - The word translated, “knock”, speaks of a felt resistance to that which you desire to obtain, and requires a measure of violence or radicalness. It also carries with it the idea of perseverance, knowing it's a door that can be opened, not a wall that was not meant to be opened. (Rom. 15:30; Eph. 6:12,18; Col. 4:12)
- E. Rewards - God promises an answer to the one who diligently seeks Him. As said earlier, persistent prayer does not overcome some kind of stubborn reluctance on God's part. God greatly values the intimacy and dependence that persistence and passion in prayer produces. Jesus pledged to you that you are not on a vain pursuit but rather you will find success. Ask and you SHALL receive – seek and you SHALL find – knock and it SHALL be opened. These words are strongly binding on the side of God and are meant to preserve our hearts in the journey.
- F. Assurance - Jesus added more assurance than the promises of us receiving, finding, and having the door opened, as we pursue the realities of the SOTM in our hearts and lives. He assures us that our Father is good and only desires to give us good gifts. He addresses the two main arguments or lies that we will battle in the pursuit, both having to do with questioning the goodness and leadership of our Father. (Matt. 7:9-11)

1. Bread, not Stones - This radical lifestyle sometimes does not feel like it is producing life, but it is. Jesus assures us that when we feel like what we are doing is pointless and unfruitful, we are wrong. We are pursuing the bread of life.
2. Fish, not Scorpions - There are also many times that we face the lie that the SOTM lifestyle is actually harmful or diminishing our life negatively. Jesus assures us that He would never exhort us to something that only harms us, but rather, He only exhorts us to that which gives us strength.

### III. Summation of Relational Love (Matt. 7:12)

- A. In its context, the “Therefore” looks back to what Jesus said about seeking to align with God's heart in relational challenges addressed in the SOTM (Matt. 7:7-11). Jesus gave a practical application of what He just said on asking, seeking, and knocking: praying for a greater breakthrough. This statement has been coined, “The Golden Rule”, and rightly so, as Jesus tells us that it’s the summation of all of the exhortations of scripture concerning Godly relationship.

*The principal of God's kingdom is this: whatever we want others to do for us is what we are to do to them. Our actions are not determined by how people treat us, but by how we **desire** them to treat us and by how graciously the Father gives to us. - Mike Bickle*

- B. Love in our culture rarely takes on concrete definition and generally alludes to making people feel good, giving them what they want, and physical affection. The scriptures concretely define love over and over; love is patient, love is kind, love rejoices in truth..... Here, Jesus gives us once again a very practical definition of loving one another. (Matt. 22:36-40; Luke 6:35-40; Rom. 13:8-10)

*“Oh, that all men acted on it, and there would be no slavery, no war, no striking, no lying, no robbing; but all would be justice and love! What a kingdom is this which has such a law!”  
(Spurgeon)*

Session 32 - SOTM The Internal Beauty of the King and His Kingdom Sunday Nov. 1st 2020

Wisdom and Exhortation to Walk out the SOTM:

Part 2: Relentless Dependence and Summation

(Matt. 7:7-12)