

To Whom Do You Pray?

Matthew 7:7-11

Abraham went out, not knowing wither he went. Hebrews 11:8. Abraham didn't have all the _____ but, nonetheless, was at peace and rest. How was this possible? He went out, not knowing where he was going but he did know _____.

Our text today reminds us that the Jesus never promised us He'd remove our _____. M.Lloyd-Jones "He does not say that the would cut out all the thorns and leave the roses.....However, He did assure us that knowing Him, we need never be _____ or _____." The passage today has been sorely abused by many preachers but, truthfully, we must understand that this is no universal promise where God grants every desire and whim I have. The perfect question is: why did Jesus place this teaching right here in the SOTM? For one thing, the entire 7th chapter of Matthew has one theme: _____. That judgment of God is upon _____, so we should be careful regarding our _____ of others.

I. We have a _____.

This text reminds us we have a great need about which we can do _____. This need is both _____ and _____. It requires an ongoing

look to the heavens. Thinking about the SOTM, we realize how woefully short we fall continually. Consequently, when someone understands the depth of his need, the thought of praying for a private jet seems ludicrous. However, what has crept into the church is "if I just use the right formula in prayer and ask in exactly the right manner, believing, I can make anything happen." (R.C. Sproul). This attitude is patently _____, putting the emphasis on the _____ rather than where it belongs: _____.

II. We have a _____.

Lloyd-Jones wrote the greatest defect in most Christian lives is the failure to know God as Father. Genuinely believing this fact: "We could smile in the face of every possibility and eventuality that lies ahead of us."

Notice, as well, the comparison between our Heavenly Father and earthly fathers. Jesus recognized that even earthly fathers, as flawed as we are, actually want to treat our children right way. That earthly father is not going to offer his son/daughter a flat rock if they needed bread. Nor

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will that father offer his child cooked snake if they wanted fish.

Now, if your earthly father is like that, how much greater is God, The Father? Because He is our Father, and because He is ever, only, Good, He will never, ever, give you anything that is _____.

III. We have an Unerring Father.

Another point here worth noting: Our earthly fathers cannot know the future. Sometimes, what seems like a good decision currently can have disastrous consequences. Thanks be to God, He knows the eternity, past and future.

Again, Lloyd-Jones commented “we are the children of a Father who not only _____ us but _____ upon us and _____ his eye upon us. He will _____ give us anything that is evil.”

IV. We have an Unfailingly Good Father.

Anything, _____ that is good for you, that is for your _____, anything that is for your _____, anything that will bring you closer to Him....He will _____ it.

A believer’s passion is to be like the One Who Redeemed her. Since that’s true, that believer will go on asking, will go on seeking and go on knocking.

The way to face whatever is _____, whatever is _____, is that even though we have a great _____, we have an even Greater Savior, We have a Great Father Who loves us. This Greater Father is One Who will never err, nor will He will us anything bad, granting us everything that pertains to life and godliness.