

### **Silence and Persistence**

**Math. 7:7-8** - “Ask and it will be given to you; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

Theodicy – the unavoidable question that enters our minds because of suffering. Formed from two Latin words meaning “justice of God”. Jesus prayed hours before his arrest in Gethsemane to Abba the Father. Why did he do this and what was the Father’s reaction?

Do you have an item or need in your life that God is excruciatingly silent on?

The answer “No” – has God ever given you the “No” answer?

Silence – has God ever given you what you feel is the “silent” treatment?

What feelings do you have when God is silent, and prayers are not answered?

“I know the power of God and the silence of God, and sometimes I think I’d handle the silence better if power was never on the table at all.” God has a personality, a will, and is unpredictable. That is the God, the Father we have followed all our lives. Not a predictable machine or process. What does this mean to you?

### **The Deeper Invitation**

Jesus said: **“ask, seek, and knock”**. Ask – a need in your life. Seek – look for God through the communication of prayer. Knock – to share a table with another is an intimate experience.

God the Father wants an intimate experience with us; affirming our person, sharing our company, and delighting in our presence. What does this mean to you?

Can you imagine you are at a table with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit next time you pray?

### **The Woman Who Wouldn’t Take “No” for an Answer**

Jesus told the story of the woman asking the judge for justice against her adversary. He used a woman in the story to reflect on the society at the time and the low position of women.

What does Jesus’s story tell us of how God answers prayers?

### **Keep On Asking**

What about if our prayers feel like they are going to deaf ears? Nothing happens. Doors do not open, and we find ourselves in the same place and the same situation.

The Greek translation of “ask, seek, and knock” implies they are an ongoing action, taking place in the present and into the future. I.e. “Keep on asking,...”.

Jesus is telling us that no matter the outcome or answer to the prayer, keep on asking, keep on seeking, and keep on knocking.

**Luke 18:1** – “Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.”

Why do you think Jesus made it a point to tell a story about persistence in prayer?

Prayer is not begging God to do something but coming along side God and asking Him to act on our behalf. For we know God is weaving history for His chosen people. And we are those people.