

Knock Knock

Matthew 7 & Luke 11

Introduction

- For Christmas, we got our kids joke books.
 - It's not unusual for us to put our kids to bed and soon after hearing them laughing uncontrollably.
 - Annoyed we rush up to the bedroom to remind them of bedtime, only to find that they are sharing jokes from their books with one another.
- Since the title of today's sermon is called, *Knock Knock*, I've asked them to share a few of their favorite jokes with you.
 - Rocket- Rocket-bye baby, on the tree top¹
 - Wooden shoe- Wooden shoe like to hear another knock knock joke?²
 - Walnut- I walnut leave until you open the door.³
 - Otter- You otter let me me in!⁴
- Sermon Series: *Seeking God*
 - Primarily this has been a series on prayer
 - The Promise that if we seek God we will find him
 - God invites us to know Him and serve Him through prayer
 - Wisdom of Prayer- more than just an exercise but offers substance for our life
- Today's Passage familiar- "Ask and it will be given to you, Seek and you will find, Knock and the door will be opened."
 - Found in two of the Gospels
 - Matthew 7- context of the Sermon on the Mount
 - Luke 11- context of the Lord's Prayer
 - Not a discrepancy in scripture, just recorded by Matthew and Luke in different ways and yet both illustrate the same point- if we seek God through prayer, God the Father will answer His children abundantly.
 - If you are a parent or grandparent you know how annoying it can be when your kids persistently ask for something
 - Yet, if we could apply that same ambition to our prayers what we will find in both of the passages today is that God welcomes our persistence and answers abundantly

¹ Roman, Carole P. *The Big Book of Silly Jokes For Kids*. Emeryville: Rockridge Press, 2019. pg. 64.

² Roman, pg. 63.

³ Teigen, Robert Elliott. *Laugh-Out-Loud Ultimate Jokes For Kids*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 2017. pg. 51

⁴ Teigen, pg. 54.

- Crocodile tears and fat lips are not required, however we do need to approach God boldly and yet humbly through prayer.

Knock on Heaven's Door

- **Matthew 7:7-8**
- We receive two separate knocks on our door almost every day
 - Mid-Morning- postman
 - Mid-Afternoon- UPS/FedEx
- Gentle Knock that lets us know that something has been dropped off at our door
 - Not persistent
 - Not overbearing
- Most of the time we don't even rush to the door, because we have become familiar with the knock to know that someone doesn't need to speak with us, they just want us to know that something is there for us.
- In Matthew's account of this passage, the context is the Sermon on the Mount
 - One of the big themes of the Sermon on the Mount is the Kingdom of Heaven
 - Who will inherit the Kingdom of Heaven was of great interest to Jesus' audience
 - While Jesus is explaining what the Kingdom of Heaven is like and who will enter, He also reminds the crowds that the Kingdom of Heaven is near because of His presence
 - So when it comes to prayer- Jesus' point is that God's Kingdom is near
 - When you pray you are literally knocking on Heaven's door
 - When we knock- it's not to remind God that we are there, but we need to knock in such a way as to request entrance into God's presence
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:17 (ESV), "pray without ceasing"**
 - The Promise and Invitation are clearly stated here by Jesus
 - We should not hesitate to seek God in prayer
- Last week's illustration of Disney World
 - Cost and Travel are not easily accessible
 - Disney on Ice comes locally is an opportunity to experience Disney close to home
 - Heaven may seem distant, but God comes close to us especially through prayer if we will take the opportunity to experience His Promise to seek and find
- Question during Pandemic- "Where is God?"
 - Title of sermon series
 - God shows up in the absence
 - Prayer helps us to make this connection
- Devotions last Sunday with the kids
 - Not at church, but an opportunity to still grow close to God

- “Wandering Off”⁵
 - Cattle get distracted with grass that is greener on the other side
 - End up outside of the pasture
 - Have to be rescued
 - Similar to Jesus as Shepherd seeking us as His Sheep
- Discussion on how to keep from wandering from God. It’s why we do things like devotions and prayer.
- Watching their faith develop and grow
- Prayer as a parent is that my kids will know God at an early age and live for Him all the days of their life.
- My kids aren’t perfect but I do believe that God is opening this door of faith for them as we persistently knock.
- Encourage you to knock on the door of Heaven with the desire to be let in!

See God as Father and Friend

- **Matthew 7:9-10** God as Father
- **Luke 11:5-8** God as Friend
 - The Truth is that as we seek God through prayer, God will reveal Himself as both Father and Friend
 - Go back to illustration of kids persistently asking for something
 - Moments when you answer as a parent out of discretion
 - Other times you respond like a friend, with the same eagerness that matches their persistence
 - Neither is bad, because we want what is best for our kids
 - Whether they accept what we offer or not, it does not change the significance of our role in their life.
- The more we seek God, the more God will reveal himself as both Father and Friend
 - God provides for us according to what is best for us, but when He gives-He does so abundantly!
 - Sometimes he redirects our desires to something beyond what we think we need
 - However God responds it doesn’t change God’s role in our life as both Father and Friend
- Last week- building doll house for Avery
 - Birthday gift
 - Several hours to put together

⁵ see, *Our Daily Bread*. “Wandering Off”. By Cindy Hess Kasper. September 27, 2020. Accessed from *Our Daily Bread* App.

- Waiting patiently, but yet persistent on wanting to play with it
- She ended up working on it with me
- Moment things changed from just being the dad who puts stuff together, but friend who works with her to accomplish a project
- Awesome moment when you can be both Father and Friend!
- God's desire is to reveal to us that He is both Father and Friend
 - He desires that we knock persistently
 - Understand that he will respond with discretion
 - And yet provide abundantly working with us through every need.

Humble Knock

- **Matthew 7:11**
- Interesting that both Matthew and Luke make a distinction between good and evil
 - Is it that the people seek the wrong things?
 - The Lord's Prayer- the disciples wanted to know the proper way to pray
 - Example of Religious leaders who would wail in the streets for everyone to see
 - **James 4:3 (ESV), "You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions."**
 - Is it simply human sin?
 - As parents we are inconsistent at times with what we give.
 - We are not perfect as God is, and yet we desire the best for our children and strive to give them the best
 - **Matthew 7:12** our wish and our actions
 - What is it that Jesus' audience is missing?
 - Has God already given them what they have asked for and yet are unable to see what God has given them through Jesus Christ?
 - Persistently pray and yet God has already given us what we have asked for, we just fail to see it.
 - Prayer is an opportunity for God to open our eyes to God's abundance
- Seek God with humility
 - Father and Friend
 - Knocking on the door of Heaven
 - God gives us the very best of what we need even if we can't see it
 - Knock persistently but humbly

Don't End Where You Began

- **Matthew 7:28-29**

- Conclusion of Sermon on the Mount, but also offers us insight to experiencing God through prayer.
 - After everything was said, the Truth of Jesus was evident
 - If we truly seek God in prayer, He will reveal His authority to us
- When you say “Amen” you should not end where you began your prayer
 - Persistently knock on the door
 - God reveals himself as both Father and Friend
 - Gives abundantly
 - Life changing
- Even though it was clear that Jesus was not like all the other teachers, there were still some who did not believe Jesus was the Son of God
 - Those who were humble in their approach to Jesus were able to believe in Jesus and be changed as they received
 - Others continued to search for their own passions and desires

Conclusion

Promise

Invitation

Wisdom

Are you knocking on the door?

Are you persistent with the desire to enter into God’s presence?

Are your eyes open to what God has given?

Communion